*Marquis de Salvo.*

*Published by Wright, Goodenow, & Stockwell,*
*Troy, N.Y.*

# TRAVELS

IN THE YEAR 1806,

FROM

# ITALY TO ENGLAND,

THROUGH THE

TYROL, STYRIA, BOHEMIA, GALLICIA, POLAND, AND LIVONIA,

Containing the Particulars of the Liberation of

*MRS. SPENCER SMITH,*

From the hands of the French Police, and of her subsequent Flight through the Countries above-mentioned:

EFFECTED AND WRITTEN

BY THE MARQUIS DE SALVO,

MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND LITERATURE OF TURIN, &c.

Quod honestè facturum se putaverit faciet, etiamsit laboriosum, etiamsit periculosum faciet.

CIC. DE VIRTUTE.

TROY, N. Y.

PUBLISHED BY WRIGHT, GOODENOW, AND STOCKWELL, AT THE RENSSELAER BOOK-STORE—FOR THEMSELVES; FOR GOODENOW AND CO. BOSTON; AND FOR THOMAS AND TAPPAN, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.

1808.

E. & E. Hosford, Printers, Albany.

2019
S18

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

# THE DUKE OF SUSSEX.

SIR,

*UPON actions like those detailed in the following pages occurring, which evince the generous intervention of a man sensible to the tears of real distress; when narratives of hardships alleviated, or innocence defended, are translated; I am conscious of the propriety of dedicating the same to your Royal Highness: as well from that noble benevolence of heart, which is your peculiar characteristick, as from your Royal Highness' thorough knowledge of the European languages.*

*From this persuasion alone could I have aspired to the high honour of dedicating this translation (from the original manuscript in Italian), to your Royal Highness.*

*I have the honour to be, with the most profound respect and consideration,*

*Sir,*
*Your Royal Highness'*
*Most devoted,*
*And most obedient*
*Humble servant,*
*W. FRASER.*

London, May, 1807.

# PREFACE.

IT had ever been my custom to write down the observations made by me upon the countries through which I had passed in the course of my travels; but with no other view than to recollect those circumstances likely to escape my memory, when I might occasionally have wished to retrace each eventful day during my journey through Italy, parts of France, and a great portion of Germany.

Thus, as my sole purposes were my own amusement and information, and my memoranda were made only in character of a young traveller, I could by no means have thought myself bound to render these publick, or consider them as of sufficient

importance to deserve that distinction; for I esteemed myself neither capable of adequately panegyrising the objects which I had admired; nor so destitute of ability as to follow the steps of a German novel-writer, who hurries through countries with no other object than that of collecting matter for his satirical compositions, which, to speak of them in the most favourable point of view, embracing subjects with which he appears to be unacquainted, are frequently destitute of interest, and not always in strict unison with the truth. I kept a journal of the occurrences that befel me, in order to furnish me with the history of myself during any particular period, and took especial care that my name should never be suffered to appear in the publick prints.

A singular event, however, in which I had acted a conspicuous part, could not

pass unobserved by the writers of the daily newspapers. At an epoch when every circumstance relating to any of the belligerent nations occupied the attention of society; when political combustion and mutual animosity raged not only among nations, but between individuals (who naturally interest themselves in every measure, and every occurrence, of their respective countries); and when every such event became a subject of common conversation:—At a crisis too when Europe had become the field of slaughter, of revenge, and of oppression; while nothing was spoken of but killed and prisoners:—the deliverance of a lady of distinction from the bondage of the French, and the dangers inseparable from such an action, were not likely to pass unnoticed; considering besides, the subsequent detention to which she had been subjected, her laborious journey through Germany, Poland,

and Livonia, and voyage across the Baltick, on her way to England, where alone she was able to find peace and personal security.

The Gazettes of Prague and Hamburgh soon announced that a young Sicilian had planned and effected the release of Mrs. Spencer Smith, on which I was obliged to satisfy the curiosity of the persons who wished to hear the narrative of that event; but I began to grow tired of so frequently repeating it during the space of two months that I staid in Poland and Livonia, and wished that it were forgotten. On my arrival in England, however, it was impossible that I should object to a similar compliance with the inquiries of those who so warmly interested themselves in the fate of a lady who had been a French prisoner. Still I did not intend to render publick this account of my late travels, as

I rather preferred reading of the actions of others than writing of myself; especially at a time when the fortune of war so eminently concerns every class of society; and when the peace and liberty of Europe occupy the thoughts of Englishmen with such unremitting attention, that they not only pant for tidings from the field of battle, but dream of victories and prognosticate defeats. At a season when London, this great city, affords the stranger so many objects of admiration, where he sees arise from a perpetual conflict of opinions and party animosity, the vigour, security, and prosperity of a wise and industrious nation, I could not bring myself to the resolution of writing upon what had occurred to me, as it would only interest the transient curiosity of the moment; particularly from a conviction that such an undertaking would impede studies to me by far more interesting, in the acquisition

of information conducive to the developement of my mind. But my friends, from the time of my first arrival, expressed their desire to read the journal of my residence in Venice, departure from Brescia, detention and imprisonment in Germany, and journey in Styria and Bohemia, with the incidents attending our escape from Italy, and journey to England.

Being apprehensive that those written sheets might one day reach the hands of some periodical writer or novelist, and be gilded with the tinsel of romance, in addition to a misrepresentation of the truth, and fearful of becoming the hero of a fictitious history, I have preferred publishing them myself for the satisfaction of my friends. They begin with January 1806, and include October of the same year; containing a faithful narrative of Mrs. Smith's deliverance. I have scrupulously

adhered to the truth, avoiding all imitation of romance, which is often replete with incongruous images, and reflections inconsistent with either veracity or reason, and seldom written with any other view than merely to counteract the *ennui* of indolence. The detail is simple, being embellished by no elaborate efforts of eloquence, a quality unnecessary when a strict adherence to truth is wished to be maintained; and in order that the reader may be acquainted with my situation previous to the time when I undertook the liberation of the lady, I shall first take the liberty of giving a hasty sketch of my travels.

# INTRODUCTION.

FROM my earliest youth I had harboured a strong inclination to quit my native country. How often did I gaze with a longing eye on the opposite continent, anxious to observe the manners and see the curiosities there! and at a later period I wished to become acquainted with those laws and constitutions that influence so essentially the peculiar characters of different nations.

I availed myself of the peace that caused the disasters of Europe to subside for a time, and resolved on undertaking, about the close of 1803, the journey which had constantly been the object of my thoughts. Italy offered me an immensity of attractions: a wide field for the curiosity of an inquisitive traveller. This unhappy coun-

try exhibited throughout a state of debility, to which it had been reduced by so many political vicissitudes. Its incomparable soil and position had ever allured the ambitious. A few provinces were now beginning to revive, and recover their former splendour; others were unable either to support or defend themselves; and in general there was none so secure as not to have reason to fear, or so powerful as to attempt emancipation from those sufferings, which it endured.

Naples alone was in a flourishing condition. I found it in such a state of comfort and tranquillity, that I could hardly perceive any trace of the recent calamities that it had endured. The people, however, still deplored the blood that had been shed during the fatal epoch of anarchy, but manifested their joy on the return of their sovereign and of order. Every subject had resumed his regular avocations. I admired the activity of its internal trade, which fully evinced the vast resources of that prolifick and rich coun-

try; it appeared to abound with whatever convenience or luxury could demand. The civil code of this kingdom, though blamed for its great variety of laws, is nevertheless adapted to the feudal system of a country that has often changed its monarchs. The position of its metropolis, almost at the extremity of the kingdom, and the circumstance of several princes who are proprietors of land, inhabiting the capital throughout the year, are perhaps the causes why there does not exist a more extensive degree of commerce and agriculture in Calabria and other provinces. The monuments of antiquity not only recal to the memory the Cæsars, the Sybils, and the philosophers of Rome; but exhibit the ancient splendour of Magna Greece, vestiges of which are perceived about Naples, and render that country extremely interesting to the traveller whose mind is above prying into the domestick concerns of families, recording amours, assisting at ladies' toilets, scrutinizing the conduct of priests and friars, lecturing upon the fare at taverns, &c. as

M. Kotzebue has done in his Travels in Italy.

Rome appeared to me a vast museum of the fine arts. Marble monuments at every step, stupendous edifices, splendid churches, the picturesque ruins of ancient temples and palaces, columns, obelisks, and pyramids, statues, pictures, engravings, mosaicks, and *bas-reliefs*, meet the sight in all parts. But I could perceive neither activity nor energy in that city; all was languid and supine. I was not at all surprised, however, at finding the seat of the head of the Catholick religion in such tranquillity; for I thought this more appropriate than what must have been its condition formerly, when Christian Rome was the political arbiter of the interests of kingdoms, deciding in all cases on war and peace, and when it was the scene of the intrigues of every court. The apathy notwithstanding of the people is evident in other cities of the Roman state; rich and extensive lands are left without cultivation, immense tracts are seen throughout

the country naked and barren, from neglect alone. The Romans attribute such sterility to the pernicious influence of the atmosphere, which is certainly very unhealthy; but what they imagine to be the cause is no more than the effect.

The monuments of antiquity, and the remnants of the objects of art, that have escaped the avidity of invaders, render Rome still a great field for the developement of genius; and the celebrated traveller of Siberia ought really to be ashamed of his countrymen, at seeing them come to learn the principles of art from the Italians, who, according to him, excel in nothing *but their voice*.

Rome, that once used to behold monarchs prostrate before her sacred chief, receiving their sceptres from his hands, when I was there witnessed the departure of the Pope for Paris. Some were apprehensive that he was never to return; but the Roman people were no longer capable of making any opposition to whatever me-

nace might have been held out to them, and only relied on the enemy's respect towards their religion.

The report that the yellow fever raged at Leghorn, induced me to leave Florence, and I passed through Bologna without staying there more than a few days. This city, I perceived with pleasure still retains its taste for learning, notwithstanding its subjection to a military system of government, from forming a part of the Cisalpine republick. The Bolognese are better astronomers and *aeronauts* than politicians, as they were the only people of Italy that had not foreseen the dissolution of that Republican system by which so many countries had been duped.

Parma and Placentia appeared to me merely two *unattached* cities. Genoa had not been able yet to repair the dreadful effects of those intestine broils, bankruptcies, and civil wars, which it had suffered during the first disasters of Italy. After being stripped of its property by the con-

querours on the one side, it was driven to the last stage of wretchedness by a close siege on the other, for two years, by which means their only resource of commerce was completely annihilated. The principal families had emigrated, and Genoa retained no further proofs of its former affluence, than the empty name of republick. Twelve thousand French were constantly garrisoned at Alessandria; two Cisalpine regiments occupied the environs of Genoa, and Salicetti indirectly controuled all the operations of the government. Several of the inhabitants flattered themselves that the names of Durazzo, Cambiaso, Brignoli, and Spinola, would again be numbered among their doges; but in general they apprehended that they were to share the fate of Piedmont.

The conscription to which the Milanese people had been subjected, occasioned a certain degree of agitation in Milan. The Lombards, formerly engaged in agriculture, were become soldiers. That city, however, appeared to be in a flourishing

condition, whence many persons inferred that all Lombardy had gained advantages by the recent changes; but on a closer inspection this prosperity was found to arise merely from the activity of the persons employed under the new system; while in fact, industry was neglected, the manufactures and other objects of luxury were imported from France, and the proprietors dissipated their incomes at Paris. Contributions were imposed to such an extent, that the inhabitants complained of their being reduced to subsist on half their incomes; all the rest of Italy was greatly paralysed; the principal families in Milan endured the weight of these burthens, and contemplated with the deepest regret those comforts which they had formerly enjoyed under the Austrian government. The activity which I perceived appeared to me constrained, it being contrary to the habits and character of the Lombards. I remarked besides, that the Italian soldiers did not like to be under the controul of the French; but the Italians were only rousing from the lethargick state to which

a long series of peaceable years had reduced them; and although unenlightened as yet, they felt a rising disposition to imitate their masters.

In all these parts of Italy the traveller who is not of the cast of the celebrated Kotzebue, (a writer that contemns "the *Gothick taste of Italy*," because he had been accustomed to admire the gaudy carving of the columns in the squares of Styria, and of the churches in Carinthia) cannot withold his astonishment at seeing so many master-pieces of architecture and sculpture; and such productions of the vivifying pencils of the immortal Raphael, Michael Angelo, and Leonardo da Vinci, as well as of artists now living, who still reflect honour on Italy. For this country, notwithstanding the lengthened horrours of war and bloodshed, continues to teem with a race capable of closely following the steps of nature, men endowed with the gifts of transcendant imagination and invention; and neither oppression nor chains are sufficient to repress the soarings of their genius.

I left Italy after staying a short time at Turin. This city, deprived of all the splendour it had enjoyed while the court existed, had now become the seat of philosophy. Many of the *literati* of Italy had fixed their residence here: for as Piedmont and Lombardy did not border on countries suspicious to the Austrian government, the people were no longer afraid of their territory becoming the immediate seat of war. The successes of the French in Piedmont had never occasioned my astonishment till I visited that country, examined its topography, and convinced myself of the facility by which its position might have been rendered impregnable, particularly as the inhabitants are acknowledged to be of a martial disposition.

France at that time had already conferred the imperial diadem on one of the most strenuous defenders of the *republick;* but such a political change, though so very interesting and astonishing in a nation that had waded in the blood of millions of victims for the establishment of that chimera

*equality*, merely occupied the mind of the French as a matter of novelty. The measures of government were no longer objects of their attention, as is natural to every people whose thoughts are principally fixed on pleasure and amusement. What inconsistency of character did I not perceive at Paris! I found the men who had been the most virulent persecutors of the bishops, and of the catholick religion, during the commencement of the revolution, now become the apologists of that religion: those who had formerly been the most credulous, were pointed out to me as true and zealous devotees; and it was quite the *ton* to be thought a rigid catholick. I found men in the senate, who had been the abettors of the most dreadful massacres while *liberty* was in fashion, but were now the most ardent supporters of the recent elevation of Bonaparte. The Parisians would shed tears on speaking of the cruel end of Lewis the Sixteenth, and Marie Antoinette, though accelerated by themselves. The women talked with rapture of the beauty and affability of the de-

ceased queen; and the men of the morality of Lewis; yet they applauded the government of the man who now wielded the sceptre; and while they condemned many violent measures of the present court, they in the mean time found reasons to exculpate and justify them. In general they accused Bonaparte of partiality and ambition; although in fact they did not concern themselves so much about the government as about their diversions, and dissipation, or the study of the sciences, and other branches of learning. They were tired of commotion and massacre. To some the fortune and riches they had acquired, were inducements to tranquillity, others were reconciled through fear, several by the allurements of distinction, and others again were remarkable for their flattery of the new men. The generality were marked by inconstancy, a quality peculiar to almost every people guided in their opinion by the few, because incapable of judging for themselves; they always concur in the success, accede to the elevation, and participate in the misfor-

tunes of their chiefs. The affluent French were satisfied with their theatres, their National Institute, and the decorations of the *Legion of Honour*; and the people were contented with the occasional reports of some great project, or favourable intelligence, which seldom failed to excite momentary enthusiasm.

The government had already become purely military, and consequently inconsistent with a system of peace, which would have disbanded the immense armies calculated for conquest, though at first they had been formed for the purpose of crushing the revolt likely to happen against a government tottering and insecure, from the want of that popular attachment and respect, which are incompatible with power newly acquired. The senate and legislative body still appeared the bulwark of a constitution, which however had been completely subverted: their sole remaining prerogative extended no further than merely to assent to the laws or orders that were imposed. The generals being

possessed of vast property, and themselves Frenchmen, soon laid aside the jealousy which the elevation of an individual might have at first occasioned.

Bonaparte, subsequent to the accomplishment of those plans to which his cares were directed during the space of three years (while he pressed the French people to compliance with them) permitted Europe to repose for a short interval. When he had surprised the French by his assumption of the imperial dignity, and discovered his inclination to establish himself their absolute chief, he found it requisite to engage his armies in further conquest; thus pleasing the people with the prospect of glory and prosperity to the nation. Having augmented his powerful influence by the subjugation of countries bordering on France, and putting them under the government of persons on whose adhesion to the French interest he could depend; new projects, and more extensive preparations, were then in agitation throughout France, for the purpose of carrying on the

maritime war. Though Bonaparte promulgated his desire of concluding a peace with Great Britain in a letter to the king, he continued to adopt measures for pursuing war on the continent.

He began the establishment of the monarchy intended for Holland, by first framing its constitution, and naming a chief-magistrate. He also successfully obtained the alliance of some of the German princes, of which he well knew how to avail himself in case of a war with Austria, an event easily foreseen, after the changes he thought to have effected in Italy.

The adhesion of Prussia to the steps which had been taken by France; the complaints of the king of Prussia against Sweden respecting a treaty of subsidies which that country wished to conclude with England, and the answer of Austria to France, that the troops which were marching down the Tyrol, as well as into Dalmatia, were intended only for extending a line to keep off the yellow fever,

then raging in Tuscany; made Bonaparte imagine that no continental coalition with England was likely to impede the execution of the innovations which he premeditated. The principality of Piombino was conferred on his brother-in-law: in the next place he got himself proclaimed king of Italy; and soon after departed for Milan to assume the iron crown of the Lombards. All this news set the French in activity, for their busy minds are continually in pursuit of novelty and pomp; but Bonaparte had hardly left Paris, before these topicks appeared forgotten, nor did I hear a single word more about them. The Parisians became deeply engaged in the composition of epigrams, and inscriptions for triumphal arches, while the assembled senate pronounced their sentiments upon the journey that Bonaparte was performing in the Alps and Piedmont.

A misunderstanding had then arisen between the king of Sweden and Prussia, about the *Legion of Honour*, and that of the Black Eagle; but something of great-

er importance interfered, which caused these punctilios to be set aside.

The demolished Cisalpine republick had witnessed the iron crown of *Desiderio* on the brow of Bonaparte. The new title he had assumed, sufficiently announced the consequences that were likely to result to the rest of Italy, and every power apprehended that changes would take place incompatible with that system of peace, which the journey of the emperour Alexander's negotiator had induced people to expect. On my road to Germany at that time, while passing by the way of Venice, I heard that Genoa had been constituted a department of France, and the republick of Lucca annexed to the dominions of the prince of Piombino, *Bachiocci.*

Germany was but just recovering from the evils of scarcity: the people, however, appeared to enjoy ease, and were extremely attached to their just and clement sovereign. I remarked that the variety of laws, and complex methods by which the

emperour's different states were governed, render the dispatch of business in the councils of Vienna rather tardy; and, besides, the number of dialects spoken in Bohemia, Moravia, Hungary, Carnia, &c. with their several constitutions, impede in some measure a certain degree of unanimity in that empire; yet, notwithstanding, it was gratifying to learn that the inhabitants of those countries, satisfied with their present condition, were the least inclined to sedition.

A deficiency of gold and silver coin prevents the greatest part of Germany from enjoying the advantages of an extensive trade, the principal source of national prosperity. As the bank notes pass for a third less than their nominal value, this reduces its commerce and exchange with other nations, to a state of increasing debt; however, the internal resources of the mines, and productions of the earth, ensure a permanent means of prosperity, independent of navigation, which certainly contributes but little towards it.

During the first days of my residence in Vienna, every thing breathed happiness and joy, though an active correspondence was known to prevail between that cabinet, and those of St. James's and Petersburg. The German people are nowise concerned about the fate of foreign countries, yet take a lively interest in whatever regards their own sovereign. The couriers that arrived daily from Russia, the continual march of troops by Vienna, the emperour's visit to the camp at Wells, attracted the curiosity of the inhabitants toward events which seemed to promise results of the greatest importance; and I do not remember any occurrence of the kind that I had felt so forcibly, as the change occasioned by this means in the circles there, in which formerly I had hardly ever heard a word spoken on politicks.

The title of king of Italy, by which Bonaparte had superseded the Cisalpine republick; the recent annexation of the Genoese state to the French empire, and of the republick of Lucca, to Piombino;

in addition to the march of French forces to the Tyrolese frontiers and into Dalmatia; not only obstructed a continuation of the treaty of peace, for the completion of which M. Novozilzoff had undertaken his journey, but convinced the emperours of Russia and Germany, that Bonaparte had hostile views with regard to the Venetian state and the kingdom of Naples. Thus all hope having vanished of restoring a general peace to Europe, it became the interest of every power to put a stop to the pretensions of France, which, in defiance of treaties, continued to augment its territory, giving no other reason, than that it was for the *peace and security of the people.*

At the cabinet of Vienna the coalition was now forming between the Northern Powers. The tergiversations of the king of Prussia, and the equivocal conduct of Bavaria had created the greatest anxiety in every mind; yet this, instead of occasioning a protraction of military proceedings on the part of Austria (at least till the

Russians should be nearer at hand), accelerated the accomplishment of the concerted measures for commencing hostilities. A seeming impatience on the side of the ministers precipitated the operations; and notwithstanding the intelligence received that the Elector Palatine was in alliance with France, while Prussia was irresolutely acting only by complaints and empty words, and nowise disposed to fight; while the Swedish troops were in Pomerania, and those of Russia in Moravia; the alarm of war resounded from the banks of the Rhine.

The internal trade of Germany was almost completely annihilated from the commencement of the war, particularly in the neighbouring provinces of Austria; and the immense consumption of the armies reduced them to the most exhausted state. At the same time every foreigner was obliged to depart from Vienna, and I, like the rest, left it, directing my way to Trieste.

I had been long absent from my native country; and to return to my parents now became a desire so ardent, that I did not allow myself the necessary time for that examination of objects, which renders travelling beneficial. On almost every occasion that offered for my edification, the recollection of my distant relatives, with whom I should have wished to divide my pleasures, rose to embitter my amusements. Europe having again become the theatre of war, it was neither agreeable nor secure for a traveller to pass through fields of battle, or reside in towns where the police scrutinize even the most harmless actions of strangers, and where it is necessary to give ample details of every step one takes, undergoing the calumnious denunciations of those informers, who, instead of preserving peace, are often intent on subverting the people's happiness; detestable miscreants, actuated by their own hatred, instead of that zeal in favour of the government, which is expected of them.

These reasons induced me to return to Sicily, and I would have embarked at Trieste, if I had been able to find a vessel bound for that island; at that time, however, the commerce between Trieste and the ports in the Mediterranean was greatly diminished. I proceeded to Venice therefore, as it appeared to me the least insecure of those cities near the seat of war. Some of the Venetians were very uneasy about the results to which they thought themselves exposed, in case of the enemy's gaining any advantages. The news of the battles of Wertingen and Gunsburg had arrived, and the French retained their position at Verona. Though the Arch-duke had been victorious at Caldiero, the dreadful check received by the Austrians at Ulm, and the insufficiency of force in the Tyrol to assist him, obliged him to carry his army through the defiles of Carinthia, for the purpose of protecting Austria, which was already in danger.

The Austrians had been employed in putting Venice in a state of defence, rais-

ing batteries on all the islands thereabout; and the communication was cut off between this city and the Tyrol, and the rest of Italy. Several Austrian regiments were left for its protection; but in the mean time the enemy's cannon was actually heard, as he furiously advanced; and while the French were insulting the residences of the greatest sovereigns in Germany, and the Bavarians were seen to take up arms against the chief of the Germanick body, in favour of their new allies, news reached us from every quarter, of the slaughter and defeats in Austria. Venice was now besieged so closely, that it appeared as if it were soon to be reduced to the miseries of famine; yet with such horrours around them, the Venetians in triumph contemplated those warriours whose arms had terrified and reduced the inhabitants of every neighbouring city on the *terra firma;* and felt conscious that their town, being surrounded by water, was out of the reach of their enemies' artillery. Though all the usual passages of communication were blocked up, pro-

visions arrived by other channels (as is natural when the prospect of gain is offered, for all duties were abolished by proclamation), notwithstanding the strict vigilance of the French. The awful state of the continent, the devastation and dreadful calamities of the war, and even their own blockade, were incapable of suspending for a moment the gaiety of the Venetians. They took no more concern in these disasters, than merely that of considering them as new topicks of conversation; the theatres and coffee-houses continued, as usual, to be their delight, and I never once perceived the smallest change in that hilarity peculiar to them. But what was the fate of the Venetian landholders at the time! Their estates and country houses were exposed to depredation; and their incomes were absorbed in paying the burdensome contributions of the enemy; to whose rapacity and fury at the first shock, the whole country was left exposed and abandoned! The Austrian government ordered many of the strangers to quit Venice; and I, though the subject

of a monarch who had taken no active part in that war, was sent to look for *safety* among the *French!* But this was impracticable; for I had hardly arrived near Fusina, when a French piquet saluted me with a double discharge of their muskets, and I was obliged to return to Venice. Fortunately, however, the Austrian government was not one of terrour, and instead of being forced away, I was permitted to remain in peace: but of how short a duration was the tranquillity which Venice enjoyed under the Austrians!

About this time we heard of the wonders achieved at Trafalgar, by the triumphant fleet of Great Britain, but fame seemed equally solicitous to announce the fall of her victorious hero. News also came, that the French had penetrated into Moravia; that Hungary offended at the conduct of the Emperour's ministers, and sensible of the difficulty of uniting her forces with the Austrians, had resolved to think only for her own safety, and avoid the uncertain chances of war; that the

arch-duke Charles was not yet in a situation to assist the imperial army; and that the king of Prussia, (the only power able to cause a diversion of the enemy's forces, by helping the combined armies of Germany and Russia), adopting a line of policy which has led to his ruin, had ordered his troops to stop their march, contrary to general expectation, as people were led to believe, that they were to join in the coalition. Serious fears consequently began now to be entertained; it was perceived that the enemy would be able to bring his forces to bear on one point; and that by a single battle, the fate of all Germany might be decided. While individuals were thus engaged with these political speculations, the destiny of kingdoms and armies had been already effected in the ensanguined plains of Austerlitz.

Peace was desirable, in order to terminate the dreadful carnage of a fatal war, which in the course of two months had occasioned the fall of thousands of victims: it was loudly demanded, not only for the

purpose of relieving individuals from distress, but whole nations; and what man would not have offered his most ardent prayers for the restoration of prosperity and ease to his country, that he might no longer witness ambition organizing armies for the sole purpose of subverting kingdoms! I was extremely desirous to embrace my relatives and other friends, and of visiting my native soil; but no one could flatter himself with the pacification of Europe, after such defeats; which naturally inspired the victors with desires of further conquest, left in the bosom of Russians a wish to vindicate their wrongs, placed Prussia in an extremely precarious situation, and the Germanick body in one equally dangerous. The French had reduced Denmark and Sweden to the necessity of assuming a defensive attitude; while with regard to England they multiplied her grievances by the hostile measures which were in agitation against the South of Italy.

Whatever events were likely to ensue,

I could have by no means imagined that I should be obliged to fly from Italy, to pass through the Tyrol, Styria, Austria, and Bohemia; to transport myself to Poland and Livonia, and pass the Baltick on my way to England; at a time when I had thought my travels completed, and was anxious to arrive in Sicily! Who could have supposed that I was to remain at Venice such a length of time, and subsequently to participate in the vicissitudes reserved for a person unknown to me; encounter the most imminent dangers; retreat by the most rugged paths of the mountains; suffer imprisonment, change my name, deny my condition, and seek for hospitality and shelter among the Russians; and finally proceed to England, there to admire the basis of its commercial riches, arising from industry unparalleled; and to observe the consummate wisdom by which its incomparable constitution is supported and kept in activity, rendering political discord compatible with personal friendship and esteem?

I only waited for the final arrangement of affairs at Venice to depart, and expected to have the pleasure soon afterwards of being with my relatives. Little did I imagine that the actions of a man does not depend upon himself; or at least that it was impossible to divine their occurrence; but experience taught me that any similar calculations were fallacious, and solely the result of my own presumption.

While war continued in Germany, I could not regard myself as an enemy to the French; but upon peace being concluded with Austria, I was bound to consider myself such. Italy was extremely agreeable to me, yet I was obliged to abandon it. I wished to embrace my parents; but I had to remove further from them. An opportunity offered for me to assist an unfortunate person; I embraced it, and succeeded in effecting the liberty of two infants. I thought myself capable of breaking the chains of their mother; I undertook to save her. Futurity was replete with various events: I determined

on facing them. It appeared as if fate had included me in the number of those doomed to hazardous attempts; yet I willingly engaged in accomplishing the purposes suggested both by a strong sense of my duty as a man, and the common feelings of humanity.

# TRAVELS,

## &c.

THE peace of Presburgh occasioned the blockade of Venice to be raised; but as the French troops directed towards Naples refused a free passage to every person not subject to French controul, this unpleasant state of continued war prevented me from continuing my journey homeward. I was desirous to undertake any practicable way of reaching Leghorn, where I could have easily found a conveyance for Sicily; unfortunately however I was seized at this period with a long and dangerous illness which greatly reduced my strength, nor did I begin to recover till the early part of February. About the middle of January 1806, the French force under general Lauriston entered Venice, and established a new government there.

This change in the political system of a city which for several years had enjoyed a perfect tranquillity, offered a most interesting instance of the vicissitudes to which even states are subject. The most unbounded licence was granted to all games of hazard; and this opened the way to the utter ruin of the fortunes of a people who, idle by nature and education, willingly indulged themselves in such pursuits during those hours which before were passed in coffee-houses, where the Venetians loiter away most of their time. The *banks* at the publick gaming-rooms, in every corner, became the medium of speculation which occupied all the attention of the Venetians. In every street the gayest masks were seen at all hours of the day, according to ancient custom; and the people, absorbed in their diversions, were blind to the measures of a government intent on extinguishing that remnant of independence and peace which was the sole vestige of their ancient greatness.*

* This policy tends to weaken the people, by utterly precluding the possibility of vindicating their

None of those who boast their noble lineage by the exhibition of splendid portraits of the former rulers of the Adriatick, none of the proud offspring of doges and senators, shewed the least desire to oppose their new masters. I observed that, of all people, the Venetians bore subjugation with the greatest indifference; it even seemed to be congenial to them:—they knew better how to discuss principles of legislation, than practically to govern.

This alteration of affairs however did not lead me to apprehend any obstacle to my departure, and I therefore desired a passport for Sicily. I was asked what was my native country; and when I had answered this question, the minister of the police said that it was necessary to consult the government on this point. The arrival of *prince* Eugene de Beauharnois re-

wrongs: their energy is enervated by every species of licentiousness and luxury. But such a method of reducing the citizen to wretchedness, has sometimes roused him through despair, and animated him to insurrection.

tarded an answer to my demand. The Venetians on this occasion were busily occupied in preparing festivals of a nature quite unknown to the inhabitants of the *terra firma*. Ambitious to display an Asiatick pomp on their circumambient waters, they afforded to this new *prince* an opportunity for forming a judgment of their character.

I waited till a more regular form was given to the tribunal of the police, before I renewed my application for the passport; and at last, after insisting on an answer, and on knowing the cause of such delay, I was told that I could not with safety depart for Sicily with a French pass, till the fate of my country was decided.

In this condition, every object which had hitherto been so extremely interesting to me, changed its aspect. During my residence in the city of Venice, I had hitherto availed myself of all the amusements offered to a young traveller; but now living under the dominion of the ene-

mies of my king and country, I found that any longer stay would be insupportable. Every communication also between Sicily and the continent being interdicted, I was deprived of the happiness of corresponding with my family. The society of the Venetians was entirely directed to gaming-tables and lotteries, to which I always had an antipathy: such pastimes were disgusting to me.

Being thus undetermined on what to resolve, I was quite unhappy: I felt a desire to quit Venice; but the obstacles to doing this in the manner I wished, increased my anxiety. The inactive state to which I was reduced, rendered me a burden to myself, and I lingered away my time in torpid apathy. The prospect of my fate seemed gloomy; vigour forsook my mind, and my heart was depressed by the heaviest presentiments of futurity.

On my first arrival at Venice from Vienna, I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance with the countess Attems.

This lady, who was daughter to baron Herbert (the emperour's minister at the Ottoman Porte), lived at Venice with her husband. To a cultivated mind, and a love of the arts, she united an amiableness of character of which I soon experienced the advantage; as she did me the honour of admitting me to her company. I had heard much of the acquired and personal accomplishments of Mrs. Spencer Smith, sister to the countess; but during the whole time that I had lived in that city (five months), I had not had an opportunity of becoming acquainted with her.

Mrs. Smith, being obliged to abandon the severer climates of England and Germany, had come to Venice, where she had at this period resided above a twelvemonth. The very strict regimen which she followed for the recovery of her health, prevented her from frequenting the society of the Venetians; and when the French entered, being anxious to avail herself still further of the pure air of Italy (which was judged the most effectual remedy towards

her re-establishment), she requested to be informed by general Lauriston, whether she could flatter herself with being granted permission to stay at Venice in security, and without having to fear subjection to the measures of a hostile power. The general, in reply, not only assured her of her personal safety, and promised that she should have nothing to apprehend in the way of arrest, or orders to depart, but supplied her with a passport to enable her to quit Venice whenever she pleased. Such promises and assurances could not leave any doubt in the mind of Mrs. Smith, nor cause her to hesitate a moment in resolving to protract her stay, together with that of her two infant children, Sidney and Edward.

It was at the theatre of San Samuel, that I had the honour of being presented to Mrs. Smith, by her sister; and two months elapsed before I saw her again. The inclemency of winter now fled at the approach of spring; mild and serene days succeeded those of frost and snow; and

Mrs. Smith, no longer fearful of the pernicious influence of the atmosphere on her weak constitution, began to visit her sister. That young lady's versatility of talent shone conspicuously in every pursuit: she happily added to a correct knowledge of several languages, a most lively imagination; and to her natural disposition, which was extremely pleasant, she joined a vast degree of refined wit. Her sister's parties of course grew still more agreeable and interesting by such an acquisition.

In the mean time, my situation was far from being satisfactory: the time passed away, but I continued to remain uncertain of my destiny. The dull monotony into which Venice had fallen, oppressed my spirits to a degree that made me weary of an existence which appeared to promise no future source of felicity: though I spent many of my hours in the company of baron Villetti (a friend of the countess Attems) and Mrs. Smith; availing myself of the society of these ladies, and occa-

sionally exercising myself with them in the fine arts, particularly musick, for the purpose of obtaining a respite from melancholy and anxiety.

I felt however the want of some stimulus to rouse me from the torpor that gained upon me; and waited impatiently for such a favourable turn of fate, in order to recover my wonted spirit of activity. But it was not long before I experienced this impulse, in the project of relieving from the cruel fangs of the enemy an innocent victim, and two children, doomed to pass their days in captivity, or perhaps to see their mother fall a sacrifice even in her indisposed state. My resolution was soon fixed: it could not have been otherwise, when such objects appeared before a man of feeling. It pointed out to me at once both the path for flying from the enemy, and for arriving at the territory of a friendly sovereign. My heart glowed at the thought of being able to render an essential service to an individual belonging to the British nation.

Though Mrs. Smith had received the French general's word of honour for her security, and a promise that no molestation whatever should be offered to her during her stay at Venice; though she was provided with a passport to be used whenever she might choose to depart, and was now residing at Venice under the confidence which she had placed in the French general's promise; she received, on the 10th of April, an order to appear before the police.

On her attending according to the summons, she was declared to be under arrest as a French prisoner; and received an order to depart within a week for the city of Bassano, the place fixed upon by the government for her to remain at. She demanded to know the reason for which she was thus treated; and was answered: "Your country, and your name." Now her native country was *not England*; and as to her *name*, the assurances which she had received, and the passport granted to her, under the same name, ought to

have served as ample securities against any such conduct. Arguments of this kind however could have no weight with subordinate officers, who only executed the commands of their superiours.

Still I flattered myself that these considerations, if represented to Monsieur Lagarde (who presided over the police), might prevent him from putting his orders into effect; but neither these, nor the friendly interference of many persons of the first influence, were sufficient to produce the smallest favourable alteration.

Mrs. Smith herself applied personally to Monsieur Lagarde; and expressed her astonishment at being declared a prisoner of war as an Englishwoman, though her birth-place was Constantinople, and that of her parents was Vienna: besides that no pretext of this sort could reasonably deprive her of liberty in opposition to general Lauriston's word of honour, and his passport, upon the security of which she had formed the resolution to remain

at Venice after the entrance of the French troops into that city. She added that, placing the firmest confidence in these promises, she never could have been induced to suspect the possibility of such a breach of faith, which was even an act of violence. She little imagined that the permission to remain unmolested, could be altered into a subsequent arrest that declared her a prisoner; thus changing a liberal and friendly favour into a means for the better surprising her with an armed force, and exposing her to hostile treatment. All these arguments were advanced in vain to this man, who had received positive directions for his conduct in this respect. He answered that her arrest was amply justified by the name alone of *Smith*, of which she could not divest herself; and her being the sister-in-law of sir Sidney, and wife of Mr. Spencer Smith, placed her in a situation that precluded any mitigation of the order of imprisonment. Surely such a pretext requires no remark to prove its palpable insignificance; nor could any thing be more

ridiculous than thus to wage war against a *name*, on the ground of its connection with a brave admiral and a zealous diplomatist; or harder than this lady's captivity, afflicted as she then was with a severe illness!

In the mean time Lagarde, unwilling to acquaint her with the fate which was really determined upon for her, pretended to permit her to choose any city to reside in except Venice: alleging that the chief motive for sending her away from a maritime place arose from a desire in the government, that no suspicion might take place of her holding a correspondence with the English. Thus those intrepid warriours who brave the thunder of heaven itself; who sneer at the coalesced efforts of united nations however powerful; are afraid of allowing an Englishwoman to reside at a sea-port town, as she might give intelligence to their brave enemy, the only one capable of effectually opposing them! Those *generous* sons of war, who at the battle of Ulm set the very general free af-

ter having surrendered himself a prisoner of war, in token of their ineffable contempt for their foes, use the utmost rigour, and adopt the most illiberal measures, towards this individual, as well as others belonging to a nation whose recent trophies bear the names of the NILE, ACRE, TRAFALGAR, and MAIDA.

Mrs. Smith confided in the minister's offer to mitigate her fate so far as to permit her to continue to enjoy the benefit of that climate at no great distance from Venice, which would facilitate the pleasure of seing her sister frequently. In compliance with her request, she was allowed ten days before her departure, for the purpose of arranging her concerns, and fixing on the place of her future residence. She went with me to visit the neighbouring towns; and having fixed on Padua for her abode, she let the police know this, that her passport might be made for that place: but the next day, instead of receiving it, she met a soldier in her apartments, who came to announce that by or-

der of the government he was placed there to guard her person wherever she went; and that he was answerable for her during her stay at Venice. This naturally excited her suspicions as to what might ensue; and she in consequence again solicited the police for the passport, six days having expired of the ten. Far from refusing it, they promised to let her have it immediately; and this, in a measure, eased her mind.

This arrest of her person roused the curiosity of the Venetians; and on its being mentioned in several French circles, the real destiny of Mrs. Smith was discovered by the undisguised hints of some of the French officers. I was one evening at the gaming-saloons of the Phenix theatre, the great resort of people of fashion, when a female friend of mine, a Venetian ex-noble, asked me whether I had heard of the unhappy fate reserved for Mrs. Smith. I answered, that I knew she was to reside at Padua in future, agreeably to the will of the French government;

but my friend mysteriously replied, that Lagarde had received instructions to send her to Valenciennes. I shuddered at the intelligence, and considered for some hours whether I ought to inform Mrs. Smith of it or not; however, imagining that though it might cause a disagreeable surprise, it would prepare her against the immediate consternation that such an event would produce if abruptly intimated, I resolved on letting her know what I had heard. Countess Attems also discovered something similar; but the police continuing to promise the passport to Padua for the next day with certainty, we were led to believe the report to be unfounded. The next day passed however without bringing any passport; and in the evening, while we were at the house of Madame Attems, extremely uneasy on account of this delay, and anxious to know what would happen, (as on such occasions people exert their sagacity in conjecture and consultation), we brought forward all our stock of information and hypothesis, and discussed the measures to be adopted in eve-

ry event. But about ten o'clock that night, the arrival of a serjeant, accompanied by three *gend'armes*, dissipated our suspense; he arrested the person of Mrs. Spencer Smith, in the name of the *Emperour of the French;* and conducted her with him, followed by the other soldiers, to her lodgings. She there received orders not to quit her chamber; for the enforcement of which the *gend'armes* were posted outside the door.

The most infamous assassin or traitor could not have been more rigidly watched, or surrounded by stricter guards, than was this unhappy lady. If she had conspired against the French government, it would have been impossible to persecute her with more acrimony; considering her distressed situation, borne down as she was by an illness that menaced her life. The confidence which she had placed in the enemy's promise of security was her only fault; no stain of culpability appeared even to the French, except her connection with a name synonimous of patriot-

ick attachment. This proceeding could not fail to rouse the feelings of every person, however disinterested, and inspire horrour at seeing such treatment offered to a young and delicate female. When we reflect on the commiseration arising at the sight of even the guilty when brought to punishment, what must our sentiments be, on beholding the innocent, and helpless victim, dragged to the altar of revenge! We should surely endeavour to snatch it from its persecutors.

I now for the first time found myself agitated by a tumult of the most vehement feelings, affecting my soul far beyond the usual sentiments of sorrow or compassion. My imagination at times was inflamed in a degree that gave me the keenest anguish; and I shrunk with horrour at the condition of a lady, who far from her husband, her mother, and her other friends, was left destitute of even a hope of relief. A desire of rendering myself serviceable to her, filled my bosom.

The precise reason of all this rigour, however, was still unknown; and as two days yet remained before her departure from Venice was to take place, Mrs. Smith requested leave to speak with the minister, that she might receive further information respecting her fate. Lagarde granted this, for no other end than to shew her *prince* Eugene's order, in the name of *the Emperour;* which specified, that within forty-eight hours she must depart from Venice, to be sent a prisoner of war to the fortress of Valenciennes, under the escort of *gens d'armes*. Every argument or entreaty in her behalf was entirely useless: the will of those who imposed such orders was not to be appealed from. Sentiments of pity too were out of the question; and the natural difficulty arising from her impaired state of health, seemed only to stimulate Monsieur Lagarde towards accelerating the execution of his commission.

It was ten o'clock in the morning, when Mrs. Smith, having thus learnt the real

state of things, returned to her apartments: where the sister and brother-in-law, with two friends more, besides myself, waited; and who were the only persons that appeared to condole with her in her present afflicting situation. The countess gave way to her grief, and shed tears in abundance, at finding they must soon part: she was unable to support the idea of Mrs. Smith's being consigned to a French prison, or perhaps even to worse evils; and offered to participate in all the sufferings of her captivity. Embracing her, she cried: "I will go with you to Valenciennes, to alleviate the sorrows of confinement, and remain always with you, to partake of all your misfortunes." Her other friends endeavoured to console her, by representing milder prospects of futurity: they advised her to demand justice and compassion from the *prince* at Milan, and to write to her mother for the purpose of obtaining a release. But all this could give her little comfort: she alone felt even now all the pain of her situation; she anticipated all the danger incident to her fate, and la-

boured under an awful presentiment of future events. Yet superiour to all this, and endued with fortitude sufficient to repel the terrour of impending evils, she roused the courage of her weeping friends; nor once appeared shaken, till her lovely infants came running to her arms, to ask their mamma why she was so dull. While impressing kisses on them, she accused herself as the cause of their subjection to imprisonment, by her blind reliance on the promises of the enemy. She wished, by any sacrifice, to preserve them from such a situation: but how was this to be done; and who was able to help her by saving them? In evident anguish, she looked round on each of us for relief, and in mournful silence her eyes explained her supplication to us all: her maternal affection begged for succour, and her mind for advice. At this distressing moment, I felt myself quite oppressed by a variety of sensations: unable to endure such a scene any longer, I left the room, and ran to shut myself in my own, where I could reflect on the best means to be adopted for

affording her my assistance; with more coolness, and without being distracted by the sight of their tears and affliction.

As a loyal subject of the monarch by whose government and laws I was preserved, and my property secured, I was bound to quit a place under the controul of the enemies of my country; nor was I then insensible how much it was indebted to the protection and alliance of England. I knew well that the security of our walls, and the prosperity of our provinces, arose from the formidable interposition of Britons in our behalf: and that my country was defended by the aid alone of that mighty nation, from the hurricane that overthrew and shook so many thrones. I considered what would have been the dangers of Sicily, if the invincible British flag had not cooled the ardour of those who had menaced that island. Ought I not therefore, on all occasions that should offer, to afford proof of my gratitude, as an individual, towards every subject belonging to the friendly and protecting na-

tion: and more especially in the case of one like Mrs. S. Smith, harassed, sickly, and forlorn; and whose situation called aloud for the friendly intervention of every man of feeling and resolution? I conjectured that she would perhaps have to endure the most trying hardships, from the circumstance of her connection with Sir Sidney Smith: but this was a still stronger stimulus; for that British admiral had guarded my sovereigns to their throne, had exerted his transcendant courage and genius in the defence of my king and country, and in my estimation deserved every token of my grateful acknowledgment. Such reflections alone would have been sufficient to incite me to the attempt: but they were vastly strengthened by the deplorable situation of this lady, in being under the necessity of either abandoning her two infant boys; or carrying them with her as prisoners, and deprived of all hope of relief or justice.

Having reflected on these considerations, I firmly resolved on endeavouring to res-

cue her. In this I could perceive no insurmountable difficulty, nor bring myself to calculate the dangers: my determination precluded all susceptibility of fear; and I believed that fortitude and perseverance (if necessary) would ensure success. I thought the best method to adopt was, a secret flight.

I ran to Mrs. Smith about six in the evening, to communicate my projects to her, availing myself of the moments when we could not be overheard, for this purpose. "Madam," said I, "sensible as I am of the unhappy situation and the distress that await you, and conscious of my duty to assist in whatever I am able any individual belonging to the British nation, I offer you all the help that is in my power. Flight alone can save you: I will prepare and undertake it; you shall second me, and follow my steps." On hearing these words, she looked at me with astonishment. Forgetful of her actual situation, she reproved me for even thinking of thus exposing my life and liberty. She said,

that any such attempt would be attended with certain death; and she then represented the despair of my affectionate parents at the loss of their son. "What remorse must I feel," continued she, "if you were to fall a sacrifice to the enemy, who *must* discover any such plan! What reproach, if you are surprised at the time without effecting any thing! Would you not be the object of their most cruel revenge; and could I then forbear to accuse myself bitterly for encouraging such a desperate undertaking? Should I not have reason to consider myself a probable cause of your untimely end, if I were to permit measures, however generous, that are certainly neither prudent nor wise? And what hope can there be, while I am thus continually watched? How can you expect success, when the government not only places guards over me in my room, but will order me to be followed by an armed force wherever I go? It will render the police and military force of every place through which I shall have to pass, responsible for my person. How can you

therefore be so blind, when such impediments and dangers obviously present themselves? Any attempt would at best turn out but fruitless, and very likely fatal to you in its consequences." All these arguments however could not induce me to relinquish my plan; and the interest which she took in my personal security, served only to strengthen the duty that I conceived myself under of saving her if possible by any means.

I answered her, that enterprises in general increase in merit, proportionably with the dangers attending their execution: that all similar actions are uncertain as to their positive result; but when attended with success, their former uncertainty only serves to proclaim the degree of courage or sagacity evinced by the projector of them. I expostulated with her on the necessity which I felt of discontinuing habits of life that were insupportable, any longer, and that every man ought to seek for opportunities of distinguishing himself honourably: that in my own opinion and feel-

ings, I wanted an object worthy of exciting me to be useful, and rousing me to the performance of any deed that could reflect honour on my name. I convinced her that it was my positive duty to assist her; and of the propriety of my quitting a country belonging to the foes of my sovereign, as well as of the sanction of my relatives to any attempt that rendered me worthy of my family.

As to the difficulty of escaping from the guards that so watchfully surrounded her, and the dangers of pursuit and surprise, to which she alluded, I answered that I did not fear them; and that I thought it impossible they could discover me. "This," said I, "may appear rash and inconsiderate, but on the present occasion no other words can be used. Fear must never intervene to obstruct, when prudence is insufficient to deter. No man ought ever to suppose himself either weaker or less capable than another. If by the mind alone we are able to transcend the usual sphere of human capacity, or to

sink to a level with the brute, why are we to apprehend being accused of vanity by the prejudiced and obscure being who casts his virulent aspersions against every human action, whether virtuously or viciously directed? Regardless of the shafts of malignity, let us adhere to a favourable opinion of our own capacity, and not think ourselves less sagacious or daring than the enemy with whom we have to contend. By a base dereliction of our resources, and confession of our weakness, we afford him every advantage: on the contrary, let us imagine ourselves equal to victory, and success must ensue."

I assured her that death is at a greater distance from the man who does not fear it, than most people imagine; and finally that my desire could no longer suffer to be rejected or even opposed. This language, pronounced with a force of emphasis arising from the sentiments by which I was animated, reduced her to the necessity of resisting me no longer: I availed myself of the moment, for obtaining her word of

honour to second me ; and insisted on her keeping the secret to herself.

These preliminaries being agreed upon, I commenced my plan by saving the children ; for as they had not been placed under the immediate vigilance of the government, I supposed they might be easily carried off from Venice. I made no secret of this to the countess or her friends ; and the same night it was settled that the following day, under pretence of going to hear mass with their preceptor at the next church, they were to come to a certain spot where I was to wait with a gondola, to convey them to Mestre, the nearest city on the terra-firma. From this place they were to be sent post, without delay, to Gratz ; where the countess Strazzoldo, another sister of Mrs. Smith resided. At seven o'clock in the morning, the children were with me. Ignorant of their destiny, they asked me more than once why their mother did not come with them ; and why the soldiers were about the house ; when they were to see mamma again, and why

they left her behind now. At every step their words drew tears from my eyes; reflecting how uncertain the period was when they were again to meet her—perhaps never. At eleven o'clock, Elmaurer (the preceptor) had not returned from preparing the things for the journey, and the boat for Mestre. During this interval I conceived the idea of offering a most agreeable sight to a mother who must have thought her children gone several hours before, but this must take place unknown to the guards. For that purpose I wrote her a note in the form of a bill of exchange, and told the servant to inform the sentinels that it was sent to her by the banker on money affairs: it was to desire her to come to a certain window, under which I should pass with the boys in a gondola. The servant succeeded in giving her the paper; and I at some distance saw her at the window. I advanced with the gondola, and ordered the gondolier to stop at a certain place; and then pointed to the boys, whom I desired not to speak a word. This excited all the violence of

a mother's feeling, at beholding her darling children going from her. I perceived that she wept bitterly, and seemed much agitated; and a sort of convulsive transport under which she appeared to labour, made me apprehend other consequences that might serve to betray us. I therefore directed the boatman to go on, thus breaking off this affecting scene; and we proceeded to Mestre, from which place the children set off in a post-chaise to Gratz with their preceptor.

Only twenty-four hours now remained of the time which Mrs. Smith had been allowed to stay at Venice. The state of that city, and its position, rendered her escape totally impossible: it being situated in a body of water five miles broad at the narrowest part; and after reaching the land, a space of above a hundred miles was to be travelled before we could get out of the French dominions, so that we should have been much exposed to detention. To get away by sea to Trieste was equally difficult, as we were subject to the punc-

tual visit of the guards posted at every outlet; and it would have been necessary to secure a large boat, the master and sailors of which must in some degree know the secret. In short, such were the obstacles, that it would have been folly to attempt any thing at the time; and we therefore resolved on availing ourselves of the first opportunity during the journey, before we should reach the Alps.

It was necessary that I should accompany Mrs. Smith on the road. Nothing could be more reasonable, than her demand that a friend might be permitted to travel with her; it being very improper that a lady should undertake so long a journey in the company only of *gensd'armes*, without having any person to converse with. Mrs. Smith illustrated such an inconvenience in a very able letter to Mons. Lagarde; intreating that he would be pleased to allow me to be her companion in the journey, at least as far as Milan. During my residence at Venice I had formed an extensive acquaintance; and I

have reason to flatter myself that I had several friends: on this occasion they were not backward in giving the most satisfactory information in my behalf to Monsieur Lagarde, who made some inquiries on the subject.

He agreed to Mrs. Smith's demand without delay; and gave me at the same time a passport for Milan, to take also a servant; but as I did not wish any person with me, which might in some measure obstruct my plans, I sent my servant to Bologna immediately; with orders to wait for me there (with some of my effects) for about a week. I next wrote to my parents, informing them, that as the French troops were in the kingdom of Naples, it was difficult to send letters to Sicily, and of course they might be some time without hearing from me again.

At eight o'clock in the evening we left Venice, which had been so agreeable to me before, but was now grown quite odious. The calm surface of the water,

and the serene sky, seemed favourable omens for us. I could not refrain from often turning my eyes on the stupendous edifices of that rich and magnificent city, from whence I was departing perhaps never to return. I called to mind the happiness which I had enjoyed during my stay there; and from my dubious anticipations of futurity, my imagination fluctuated to the recollection of the charming amusements of Venice, embellished by the peculiar hilarity and civility of the inhabitants. This is, in my opinion, by far the most gay and splendid city of Italy. Its prospect, as it retired from my sight, left on my mind an impression of attachment which can never be obliterated.

Countess Attems, her husband, the prince Parr, and baron Villetti, accompanied Mrs. Smith in their gondolas as far as Fusina, the first landing-place, five miles from Venice; but the approach of night obliged them to return. The amiable countess could not resolve on finally leaving her sister, or abandoning her a

victim to the sufferings that now gathered round her. They embraced each other: a thousand kisses, and promises of eternal affection were interchanged: they vowed to live under the same roof, in whatever place Mrs. Smith should be taken to. Tears were a welcome resource, sighs were necessary: the instant that should again unite them was their only consolation, and that of parting was the most poignant of their torments. I embraced my friend Villetti; but the soldiers losing patience at this lengthened scene of distress, ordered our gondoliers to put off; and we proceeded on our way to Padua, in the deepest affliction.

We sailed up the Brenta till midnight; but when we had reached Dolo, an impetuous north-west gale, accompanied by heavy showers, stopped the course of our gondola. The locks which from time to time occur in this river being shut, we were obliged to wait in our frail bark, exposed to the violence of the storm, till day-light appeared. As we could not pro-

ceed by water to Padua, we engaged a *vettura* (or carriage), into which we had to admit two soldiers, under whose care Mrs. Smith was left: two more followed us on horseback.

She had received no directions to present herself to the colonel of the *chasseurs*, and therefore on our arrival at Padua, drove to the Paris hotel, where she remained with her maid to take some rest after the fatigue of her journey, while I went to the colonel to inform him that I was with Mrs. Smith. Count Ghizzalo, the commandant of the *gend'armerie*, offended that this prisoner had not come to him herself immediately, with that tribute of submission which he arrogantly expected, ordered me to tell Mrs. Smith to wait on him before she engaged any apartment at the inn; but altering his mind, he condescended to let her remain where she was. He asked me for what purpose I was with the prisoner; and when he understood that my intention was to continue the journey in her company as far as Mi-

lan, he said that I should not be allowed to follow her farther than Padua; as no person was permitted to be with prisoners under the vigilance of government. "Return to Mrs. Smith," said he, "and in an hour I shall do myself the pleasure of calling on her."

I went instantly to acquaint her with this obstacle, which threatened to prevent the accomplishment of our plan; and advised her to write to Monsieur Lagarde, begging that he would be pleased to authorise the commandant to let me continue with her. Count Ghizzalo came to Mrs. Smith soon afterwards: he expressed his dissatisfaction at her neglecting to appear before him; and then informed her that he could not permit her to go forward in company with a man whom he knew nothing of, and who might in some measure embarrass the custody of her person; and that he would not suffer it, as the strictest care was ordered to be taken of her. Mrs. Smith answered: "This person whom you know nothing of must go with

me to Milan, according to the orders of the government itself, which will be fully confirmed, if you write to the minister of the police at Venice." Ghizzalo, contrary to his wish, was obliged to consult the government, and wait for an answer, which detained us two days at Padua.

I endeavoured to render Mrs. Smith's situation here as easy as circumstances, and the peculiar dulness of the city, would admit. I introduced to her M. Bellotto, who politely used every attention suitable to a man of his excellent education, and count Zigno; and count Ghizzalo even permitted her to go to the theatre, followed however by a guard; so that this short stay was rather agreeable than otherwise.

At last the permission of the police at Venice arrived; and we proceeded on the 27th of April, accompanied by three *gend'armes* who were to continue all the journey with us. The colonel himself accompanied us as far as Vicenza, and returned to Padua the next day.

One *gend'arme* sat with us in the carriage, and the two others followed on horseback. The fellow in the carriage wished to occupy my attention with the history of his crimes, which he recited as noble trophies of his revenge. He appeared certain of persuading me that revenge was suited to the character of a man of feeling: that to plunge his steel into the body of whoever refused to agree to his desire, was an act worthy of every lofty mind: that his fellow-creature gasping his last from wounds inflicted by him, was the most pleasing spectacle to him; as it afforded him a proof of his own strength, and of the other's weakness: that the sight of blood and carnage was so habitual to him, that he could not remain long without enjoying it. A legacy, he continued, which his brother had disputed with him, had kindled in his bosom the desire of murdering that brother; and he expressed with the greatest energy how useful it would be to humanity, if he were only permitted to put to death all priests and monks. But while this wretch,

who thirsted for human blood, continued his blustering thus, I sat deeply engaged in reflecting on the means of baffling his vigilance; and all this stupid bravado directed of course to me, I smiled at in silent contempt. As we entered Verona in the evening, he pointed to a spot where he said he once murdered his comrade; but regardless of all this, I determined that in this very city I would attempt Mrs. Smith's escape.

I considered this to be the fittest place, as I flattered myself with the assistance of some friends whom I expected to meet here according to appointment, but I was unfortunately deceived, for they had set out the same morning for Milan. I had still the hope of receiving the aid of one of my most intimate Venetian friends, who was at this time to come to his country-house (which was only two posts from Verona), on purpose to help me. I had imparted the secret to him, and desired him to meet me at a certain place in Verona that night. We had agreed that Mrs. Smith,

on first escaping, was to take shelter in his seat, and to remain concealed there for a short time, whence, in the disguise of a country dress, she could have easily reached the imperial dominions by secret paths, as they are at no great distance from Verona. To settle our measures still better, I wrote him a few lines, and sent it by express, desiring to receive an answer as quickly as possible. I told him to repair to Verona; where, in the most solitary place, he would find me exactly at midnight, as he was already informed.

I went punctually to the spot; and there did I stand, amidst the ruins of the ancient amphitheatre, during a heavy shower of rain, even previous to the appointed hour. At length twelve o'clock struck; yet the awful silence still continued: nor could I hear the step of any one approaching. After waiting some time in vain, I ran to the post-house to inquire for the young man by whom I expected the answer; but on passing by the Piazza dell Erbe, a man came up to me, and stopped

me, without speaking a word. I instantly presented a loaded pistol at him, which caused him to take to his heels; but not a syllable was uttered on either side. I could not imagine what this meant. The man had not yet returned with an answer, and I thought of returning to the amphitheatre, in hopes that he might be waiting there; but it was to no purpose. Two o'clock in the morning had struck, when, tired of looking for him, I returned to the inn; desirous to ease Mrs. Smith's mind from the agitation and suspense in which she naturally was, by acquainting her with my ill success: but her room was surrounded by the *gend'armes*, and I was denied admission to her at such an hour.

The same day, before I went to see her, I tried again to learn something of the messenger whom I so anxiously expected. He at last arrived with the letter from my friend; in which, after the usual silly compliments, he expressed the impossibility of his coming to Verona, on account of business that kept him at home. This

weak man, resembling, both in character and principles, the generality of the inhabitants of that country, was terrified at the thought of incurring the smallest risk of personal danger, or exposing his interest, for the purpose of lending aid to the unhappy, and participating in the glorious claims of friendship.

With what facility do men use the most generous expressions of friendship, and make professions of attachment; but how seldom do they fulfil them! He who declares himself a friend at the festive board, in assemblies of pleasure, or at the gaming-table, rarely considers himself bound to act as such, and hardly ever do his actions agree with his words. The answer of this Venetian nobleman, whom I thought my friend, convinced me that no further help could be expected than my own; and even, instead of the former, I had reason to expect treachery. Whoever finds himself incapable of conducting an enterprise alone, is unworthy of success. Every man's best friend in the end is *himself*;

and his best help his own sagacity and fortitude, when excited by a high sense of honour and rectitude.

I did not wish however that Mrs. Smith should remain ignorant of the truth, and therefore I went to shew her the letter. She expressed her fear that no other means could be devised for escaping; but when I communicated to her the stratagem which was to be effected that evening, she recovered her hopes again.

I had marked a cave that was near the Adige, as the place in which we were to hide ourselves, after absconding during the night; and had prepared a small post-chaise for our departure in the morning early; but the *gend'armes* told us that they wished to proceed on the journey, as no more than two days repose was granted.

That day Mrs. Smith was ill with a slight fever, and I went in search of a physician to testify the lady's state of health, and thus prevent her from being forced to

continue travelling for the day. Doctor Dalbene, after visiting Mrs. Smith, attested on paper the nature of her complaint, which procured us the delay of another day. The conversation of this man was of great use to us, as it prevented us from attempting any thing at Verona, since we should have been inevitably stopped at the gates. I never disclosed any part of the secret to doctor Dalbene in the course of my inquiries : yet he informed us that this being a *place d'armes*, or fortified city, the gates were closed every night till sun-rise ; and he also informed us of the extreme caution that was used with regard to the passports of every person leaving the city. When I had first planned our flight by the assistance of my friend, I had overlooked this essential point : and now, perceiving the impossibility of success, I renounced every idea of attempting any further step at Verona ; so we departed for Brescia on the first of May.

On the road, I observed the various aspects of the country between Verona and Brescia: and when we drew near Peschiera, I stepped out of the carriage, on pretence of drawing a sketch of the view of the lake di Garde; but in reality for the purpose of obtaining information respecting the different interiour roads thereabout, as I conjectured that from thence to the confines of the Tyrol the distance was inconsiderable. I made several inquiries on this subject, and discovered the different roads: I found that Peschiera was so situated as to oblige us to pass Brescia on our way to Riva, the nearest village to the Tyrolese confines. I continued my way on foot; inquiring which was the nearest place to Brescia, and the most convenient for passing the lake; and was in general answered Salò, it being the least distant from Brescia and nearest to the Tyrol. Thus instructed, I returned to the carriage; and shewed Mrs. Smith, in the presence of the soldier, my drawing of the fortress of Peschiera, and of the adjoining hill by which it was shaded.

Count Attems had promised to overtake us at Milan, and go with Mrs. Smith to Valenciennes. This gentleman however, came up with us a little before we reached Brescia, having obtained leave from colonel Ghizzola to follow Mrs. Smith. We were cautious in keeping our secret from count Attems; as we reflected on the danger of his person, the tranquillity of his family, and the probable confiscation of his property by the government; but at the same time we intended to prevent his situation from being such as might raise suspicions of his concern in the plot.

The same day (the first of May) we entered Brescia; where I had irrevocably determined to execute Mrs. Smith's deliverance (it being the nearest place to a neutral territory), and to fly from the dominions of the new *king of Italy*. For this purpose, before engaging the inn at which she was to rest the two days allowed, I ran to examine the windows of the different inns, and see of what height they were from the ground; but they all re-

sembled each other so much in construction and elevation, that we remained at the one at which we had stopped with the *gend'armes*. A room was appointed for Mrs. Smith, fifty feet from the ground; the *gend'armes* took the room adjoining to her's, leaving the corresponding door half open, according to their custom; count Attems had the room beyond the soldiery, so that all secret communication between him and his sister-in-law was precluded; and I contented myself with a mean apartment in another part of the house.

The lateness of the hour at which we arrived, and the presence of the count, who had brought many letters for Mrs. Smith, prevented me from concerting with her the measures to be adopted. I wished to visit Salò, and examine its position and police; and also to obtain information of the rules observed at the gates of Brescia in passing. For this purpose, and while the police of Brescia yet remained ignorant of my arrival with Mrs. Smith, I went early the next morning to get my

passport signed for Tyrol. I wished to have it done for Vienna; but this was impossible, as it had been made out for Milan at Venice. From the police I hastened to observe the outlets of the city, and discover the easiest way of getting away; but, to my sorrow, I could see no other passage than through the gates, which were all strongly guarded. I next set about providing a light carriage, in order to be always furnished with a vehicle; and also obtaining horses, so that we might be able to avoid waiting at the post-houses, where we might possibly be in danger of being surprised. I was not able to find either the horses or carriage so soon as I wanted them; however, as I never allowed any accident to depress me, or destroy my determinations, I considered them as only useful, but by no means indispensable. I employed the short remaining part of the morning (before the *gend'armes* were likely to look after me), in obtaining a bill of health at the office, which would be necessary on entering another country. I next went in search of a man's dress for

the disguise of Mrs. Smith. All this I accomplished before ten o'clock in the forenoon; when I went to see her, and found her alone. I shewed her the passport signed for Trent, and the bill of health; and told her that I had in my possession the clothes with which she was to disguise herself as a man. On my producing these to her, she was at once forcibly struck with the dangers that were to be encountered: and the idea of attempting a task so extremely arduous, threw her for the first time into an apparent alarm, leaving her no resource but the mere desire of obtaining liberty.

Being fixed in my resolution, however, I could perceive nothing but the glory that shone before me, and guided my steps: and I accordingly availed myself of the hour while the soldiers were at the street door, to settle with her all that was to be prepared and attempted. I told her that I should go during the night to reconnoitre the environs of Brescia and the town of Salò, that I would examine whatever ob-

stacles might occur likely to occasion a surprise on our outset; and that I would acquaint her, and at least prevent every suspicion: that I would investigate the impediments likely to happen in the Tyrol, and endeavour to counteract them: in short, that I would collect all the information possible respecting the places through which we were to pass, ensure our passage through the gates of Brescia, fix on each station, and contrive infallible measures for eluding the vigilance of every ferocious Argus, however attentive. I reminded her of the importance of concealing the secret from the count. Her mind, notwithstanding, still laboured under the notion that I stood exposed on the brink of a precipice. At every proposal to relieve her, she seemed to forget her own situation: and tried to dissuade me from the attempt of a scheme pregnant with great danger to my life and liberty, and grief to my parents; telling me that the least punishment which I should meet would be imprisonment for the most precious years of my youth. She finished by

exhorting me to continue my journey to Milan. In reply, I used but few arguments to convince her, that all she could say was insufficient to change my resolution; but I sincerely admired her delicacy, and her sentiments concerning the possible consequences.

She thought she perceived the will of Providence in my determination to save her: and regarded me as the friend who was to break her chains; and to guide her to a husband, to her children, and relatives. She therefore confided herself to my care: she agreed to follow up all my steps; and overcome, as far as she was able, every impediment. I could not however depart from her, and go away alone, without acquainting the *gend'armes*, to whose vigilance I was in some degree entrusted, with instructions, stating that I was to accompany her to Milan.

Nothing was more easy than to obtain from the soldiers permission to leave her, as a stranger's presence incommoded them;

besides the incessant watch they kept over him, the orders of the government relative to the lady being extremely rigid in every respect. On quitting Mrs. Smith, I told the guards that my affairs prevented me from continuing any longer in the company of this woman: that the slow manner in which she travelled, staying so long at every place, greatly retarded my journey: that I had to go to Paris with all possible dispatch: and besides (flattering them by apparent confidence), I assured them that it was disagreeable to me to continue any longer with a prisoner; nor did I like to expose my conduct to the stigma of being the friend of a woman whose arrest was demanded by the *emperour of the French.* I added, that for this last reason in particular, I did not wish to go to Milan with her, and desired that very evening to depart from Brescia; adding, that as I did not like to tell the lady that such was my intention, I begged as a favour that they would have the goodness to inform her of it themselves. The fierce-looking sentinels murmured their opinions to one

another, and turning to me in a friendly tone, advised me to leave her, promising that they would acquaint her punctually. Count Attems afterwards, on hearing that I had left them without saying a word to him, was astonished, as much friendship had always existed between us.

I hired a horse and small chaise for a couple of days, agreeing to leave them at Salò, to a *Vetturino* of which place, named Silvestro, the chaise belonged. After this I concealed myself in the most solitary part of the city, to avoid suspicion. Count Ghizzalo (brother to the colonel of that name), to whom Mrs. Smith was directed at Brescia, endeavoured very politely to render her short stay there agreeable, and offered to accompany her himself, with the *gend'armes*, to the theatre. I was to set out that night, but wished first to have a few more explanations with Mrs. Smith. I wanted to instruct her how she was to be sure of my secret return to Brescia, and to act so precisely as might preclude every possibility of surprise.

The better to conceal every appearance of our project, I went to the theatre with her; in the view likewise of finding, after our return, a favourable moment for speaking to her alone. I reflected that this would be our last interview if my efforts should fail: it was at such a crisis that she had to rely on her own courage and presence of mind, while irresolution or delay might prove fatal; fear was to be avoided, and every weakness to be set aside. At twelve o'clock at night, after our return from the theatre, we endeavoured to send every one away, and fortunately were left alone. "This is the last time," said I, "that we are to speak together. I now depart, nor am I to see you again but out of these walls, where you are closely guarded. I can no longer visit the room where you are a prisoner, and I am no further to continue a witness of your all-fated journey. Should my motions be traced by the subtle traitor; or, on my return, should I be surprised at the gates, or when I am near the inn;—then if my evil destiny becomes known

to you, be sure to deny that you were in any manner concerned in my schemes. Say that you had never discovered in me the least inclination to relieve you: complain of my conduct which occasioned the suspicion of the government; and represent in the harshest terms, to the officers who may suppose you concerned, the imprudence of my character: appear amazed at what I dared to attempt, curse the day that I came with you from Venice, and shew the greatest willingness to pursue your journey. Thus these enemies will not vent their rage upon you; it will fall on my head, who am better able to bear it. They will be satisfied by punishing him who will repeat in the hour of torment, his constant desire, his duty as a man, to save you. But if I succeed in eluding their attention:—if, happy in the lonely silence of night, to-morrow I regain these walls: and in darkness accost this house unnoticed by any person, while you in this chamber anticipate my steps in your mind;—then, at eleven o'clock, free from the intrusion of others, do you let down a string

from the window to the ground, to which I will tie a paper that shall convey all that I may have discovered and prepared, and what I shall have resolved upon. I shall mention the precise time for the attempt, the plan to be followed, and the measures conducive for ensuring a happy issue. I shall not conceal from you the impediments that may strike me as likely to obstruct us: do not fear that I shall betray you and myself, if it is impossible to escape. In short, you shall read what you have to perform: you will then consider how much you have to undertake, and how you are to accompany me. If you should deem your chambermaid an object of hindrance to you, or consider her capable of betraying us at such a juncture, let her drink be cautiously mixed with some narcotick, that may lay her to sleep. Take leave of your brother only in thought, and beware of speaking a word that may lead him to apprehend what you are about to do: let no involuntary impulse of nature expose you, but reflect on what is to be done. Avoid all confusion and agitation as much as pos-

sible: let the idea of sacred liberty shield you from anxiety: let the fond hope of seeing your children and relatives once more, animate you in the trial: be certain of a happy result, and reject every pernicious doubt."

Her mind was strengthened: her courage supported her amply, and all her accents tended to convince me of the fortitude of her character. I glowed with rapture at seeing her equal to the imminence of the risk: her sentiments stimulated me not to make the least further delay, and I immediately took my leave of her.

At four o'clock in the morning I passed the gates of Brescia, and directed my steps to Salò. I viewed the surrounding hills and the chain of mountains along the road: open cavities and recesses proper for sheltering the forlorn fugitive, drew my attention; these I strictly inspected; determining, in case circumstances should turn out unfortunate, and the soldiers should be in pursuit of us, we would hide ourselves

there till the danger in some degree subsided. The prospect of the country was delightful, and the silence and solitude, so congenial to my situation, that reigned throughout the scene, seemed to prognosticate that the path which I then trod was the least replete with danger.

On my arrival at Salò, no officer appeared at the gate to demand my passport; nor did I perceive any crowd of idle gazers gathering about my chaise to look at *the stranger*, as is the custom in the small towns and villages of Italy. This made me hope that I should be able to pass through this place with ease; as such curiosity, besides being troublesome, might to people in our situation (who have every thing to apprehend) turn out fatal. I visited the village; and perceiving no sign of a military force, I resolved with pleasure to come this way. I applied to the police, to have my passport signed for Trent; saying that I wished to get it done the day before, as I intended to come the following morning very early. I then has-

tened to the borders of the lake di Garde; where I engaged a covered boat with twelve oars, to be ready the next morning at six o'clock for passing the lake with all expedition. I feared, and justly, that on landing on the other side of the lake, we might not be able to find either horses or carriage, and thus be obliged to go as far as Roveredo on foot; and as in such a case we should be exposed to the greatest danger of being overtaken, I resolved on hiring a carriage and horses at Salò to carry us to Trent. I settled for another boat (to convey the carriage, &c. across the lake to Riva, the landing-place), which was to follow the course of ours.

At eleven o'clock in the forenoon, nothing remained further to prepare at Salò, but as I could not well return to Brescia before the evening, so I was obliged to wait at Salò till eight o'clock, at the house of Silvestro, to whom the chaise belonged. I sat reflecting on the perilous moment of Mrs. Smith's escape from the room. In this first, this difficult step to-

wards her freedom, I considered the extreme danger of her leaping from a window at such a great height; and to get away by any door of the inn was totally impossible. I therefore studied how I could make a ladder of rope and pieces of wood: and though I never had any taste for mechanicks, I bought the necessary materials, and succeeded in making one as long as I thought would be required. When this important implement was finished, I wrote the letter, in which I informed her minutely of what I had prepared, and what I had discovered: assuring her that we had no prominent obstacle to fear in our flight. I told her of the ladder, which she was to tie to the iron of the window; and that by two o'clock in the morning I would be under the window, waiting for her: that she must avail herself of the time when the guards were all fast asleep, for descending; but to wait first for a signal from me, which would assure her that no body was in sight: for if persons passed at the time, it might frustrate all our operations, and perhaps

betray us. I concluded by exhorting her not to hesitate an instant in exposing her life thus, to recover her freedom; rather than submit herself a victim to a cruel captivity.

I left Salò when the sun had sunk below the horizon, and in repassing the hills, the hope of seeing them again the next morning, and the fear of never returning that way, agitated me extremely. One moment I was overjoyed with the idea that perhaps within a few hours, I should there sing my first hymn to newly recovered liberty, in company with the unhappy fugitive; and at an other I was filled with the apprehension of being surprised there by the *gend'armes:* my imagination sometimes anticipated the most favourable night for the accomplishment of our design; and soon after figured some person observing our motions, then our discovery, my seizure, bloodshed, Mrs. Smith's dread; in short, the most cruel terrours. These images were heightened by the darkness that enveloped every object.

As I drew near the walls of Brescia, I could not help considering them as about to be those of my prison. I entered the very instant of shutting the gates. I left the horse and chaise at an inn situated in a solitary square on the left, telling the ostler that I would return by three o'clock in the morning.

It was near eleven o'clock, when drest as a Brescian postilion, and with the rope-ladder and letter under my cloak, I advanced through the most lonely streets, towards the inn called the Two Towers, where Mrs. Smith was. A high wind which thickened the atmosphere with clouds of dust, had caused the inhabitants to retire into coffee-houses and the theatre, leaving the city quite deserted even at that hour. Being apprehensive that the *gend'armes*, or others on the watch, might observe me from the inn, I stopped before I approached to the window: I listened for some time to the noise of the soldiers; and after convincing myself that they were occupied in drinking, I drew near, and

felt for the string with my hand. Having found it, I tied the ladder and letter to it; and on my pulling gently, she drew up the parcel. I then retired, overjoyed at seeing the first danger so well got over.

I had to wait three hours before I was to return under the window; and in the mean time, being in want of some nourishment, I entered a mean tavern in a remote corner of the town, mixing with people of the lowest description. Here I satisfied my hunger, and rested myself. I then went to a coffee-house near the *Ghetto* (or residence of the Jews), where I waited till one o'clock. After this, in order to ascertain whether all was quiet, and the people retired to their homes, I went toward the theatre. On my way, I perceived several coffee-houses full of officers and citizens: and passed by other places of resort full of the dissolute rabble (or *canaglia*) with which this city particularly abounds; for as it is near the confines of the Tyrol and the mountains of Switzerland, the Brescians easily find an asylum in those situa-

tions for their frequent crimes of murder and robbery. I could not therefore be too cautious among such people, from whom I had every evil to apprehend. Though I found myself quite alone in the publick places, and the awful silence was uninterrupted by the step or voice of any human being, I often stopped to listen whether any body was advancing towards or following me, and to observe whether any one stood watching me, but I perceived nothing to alarm me, so therefore proceeded to the inn with an easy and careful pace.

Two o'clock now struck; and the hour in which our destiny was to be fixed, called me to action. My mind suffered that insurmountable agitation which frequently accompanies any hazardous enterprise wherein our life and liberty are eminently exposed. I hurried on, almost heedlessly, till I was opposite the window; impatient to carry the prisoner from those walls where I imagined she stood trembling at my delay, and eager for my friendly assist-

ance. I stood under the window confused and absent in mind, but ready to speak to her, to assure her of my presence, to call her. I suddenly discovered, notwithstanding the darkness of the night, that the windows of her room were still shut. On this I stood motionless, but continued to fix my eyes on them, when I was struck with terrour at perceiving the window of the room occupied by the *gend'armes* wide open. I heard the voice of one of them, and was afraid they watched us. I shuddered at the idea that all was divulged; that they knew of the ladder which I had tied to the string, and were only waiting for the critical moment, to exert their fury upon us. I suspected that they might have seen the clothes for their captive's disguise. I feared that the chambermaid might have betrayed us; or that perhaps some person had followed me the day before, as a spy on my actions: In short, I firmly believed that they stood ready to assuage their thirst of blood on me for daring to deceive them.

This cruel state of doubt, suspense, and terrour, gave way however to my anxiety for Mrs. Smith's situation. I could never once suppose her capable of having relinquished the attempt, for I was convinced of her fortitude; nor think her so thoughtless as to have allowed any thing to transpire or appear, capable of exciting the suspicion of the guards. I could not guess therefore what prevented her from shewing herself at the window at the appointed time.

I summoned up my spirits, though the windows of the soldiers' room continued open; and though conscious of the effects of their revenge if I were once discovered, I stood collected in the face of danger, and grasped my pistols. Vain resource! What defence could these arms make while such implements of death as French bayonets threatened me? Culpable in the eyes of government, opposition would only have accelerated my fall. I was the projector of a flight which, if successful, would not only have involved the guards

to whom the custody of the prisoner was entrusted, but also the government itself for neglecting the adequate means of securing her: I could therefore expect no trial by law, as the remissness of the guards would appear; and must evidently have been sacrificed that instant to preclude an exposure of circumstances.

As I retired a few paces from the spot after waiting so long, I perceived a man approaching the fountain that was close at hand: he stood nigh a door, which I saw him enter slowly; but at that instant my eyes caught the opening window of Mrs. Smith's chamber, at which a figure presented itself: I could have no doubt of its being her; and after looking round to see whether all was safe, I drew near: but she being ignorant of the disguise which I wore, asked in a low voice if it was I. I replied, "I am that friend, and wait for you." I now resumed my hopes that every thing was unknown to the guards, and that no fatal occurrence would ensue during the critical moment. She continued

however in the room; and I stood unable to breathe, for fear of some hidden witness of the scene, ready, perhaps to sound the alarm, and call the patrole of the city. I earnestly wished to remind her of the pressing danger incident to every moment's delay; but I heard a noise proceed from the window, which was occasioned by her tying the end of the ladder to the iron: my terrour increased at this unwelcome sound; I thought it, above all others, the most likely to rouse the soldiers, and occasion the worst of disasters. Scarcely did the ladder appear to be fastened, when I saw Mrs. Smith take hold of the window and cling to the wall, pressing with her uncertain foot the first step. I perceived she was reluctant in trusting herself upon it: the unhappy lady stood tottering upon the step; and seemed to tremble so much, that I was under the necessity of attending particularly to her, fearing that she might fall. But I was agreeably deceived when I beheld her grasping the knots of the ladder, and boldly determined to descend. What an interesting spec-

tacle! a forlorn woman, anxious to escape from captivity, committing herself from a height to ropes which, even while they tore her delicate fingers, she kissed in extacy, because they were instrumental to her release: and at the same moment armed sentinels in the adjoining apartment, who were ready to dart upon her if their sleep were interrupted by the least noise. Had they now come to their own window, she would have been discovered on the ladder, myself below waiting to lead her off, and the maid above accessary to the bold attempt of her mistress. What a field for their vengeance! What victims for their fury! Happily, however, the silence of the night, and its intense gloom, remained undisturbed: she reached the ground without receiving any essential injury; and the maid, to whom the secret had been imparted, threw a bundle from the window, containing whatever could be saved.

We instantly began our flight; running along unknown streets, without meeting

any person. Our trepidation—the haste with which we went, and our mean dress, would have been strong unfavourable indications if we had been observed. From solitary street to street we precipitated our steps till we reached the summit of the fortress of Brescia. Here the violence of my companion's desire to save herself was such, that she actually offered to attempt scaling the walls; but on my acquainting her that the chaise was ready for us at the tavern near the gates, she followed me with less agitation.

The ostler, seeing me return in company with a youth (whom, by the by, it was not difficult to mistake for a woman), gazed at us with surprise; and appeared to suspect something uncommon and mysterious. We had still to wait another hour before we could set off, as the gates were never opened before four o'clock. This protraction of our anxiety was almost enough to extinguish every ray of hope: we continually expected the arrival of the *gend'armes*: and could hardly help ima-

gining that the stable had been discovered to be the place where we had taken refuge; and that the alarm of our escape must by this time have spread to every part of the city, and our retreat be consequently cut off. The ostler, perceiving our perturbation and impatience, went to see whether the passage was free; he soon returned with the happy intelligence that the guards had come to the gates, and we might depart. Still, however, for our further alarm, we found them shut; but on our entreaties, the guard opened them; and we passed through on the 3d day of May, at four o'clock in the morning.

The beauteous sky seemed to welcome our escape with its smiles: the mighty orb of light shot forth its beams from below the horizon with uncommon splendour—and appeared to transfuse universal joy. With what happiness did I view the places which a few hours before had filled me with terrour! Our pleasure was extreme in passing the hills free from the galling incumbrance of *gend'armes*. What

were our transports in scouring the path by ourselves, unobserved by the eyes of treachery, and breathing the balmy air of liberty! To have overcome the principal dangers,—and to have broken from the walls which the grim satellites of government stood guarding,—to have succeeded thus far,—caused our apprehensions to subside. We looked back on the odious city, while we continued to hurry on toward the land of freedom.

We reached Salò at half an hour after six, the same morning; yet here, though all was ready, we had to wait at the house of the worthy Silvestro till the boatmen should call us to pass the lake. Every moment of this delay was almost insupportable; even the velocity of wings could have scarcely satisfied our impatience: but it was out of our power to advance with more celerity; and we were obliged to submit, though we were but too sensible that time was flying fast. At eight o'clock we unfurled our sails, agreeably certain that none of the idlers who stood gazing

at us knew any thing of our escape. With what satisfaction did we abandon that place, to us the last under French domination! Silvestro and his family, from the beach, wished us a happy journey; and we returned the salute by signs expressing our hearty desire never to return.

The wind was against us, and the gondoliers found much difficulty in proceeding. The prospect of the surrounding country drew our attention; and the singular positions of several of the villages, as Tremogine and Melesina, were very interesting. The variegated appearance of the numberless orchards and cottages along the shore of Carignano, charmed us as much as our situation could permit. During our passage I told Mrs. Smith all that I had seen and performed since I had left her; and she informed me of the means which she had used to gain her chambermaid—and of her astonishment at finding the ladder prepared. I asked her why she had staid till three o'clock before she descended; to which she replied

that one of the *gend'armes* was awake; and that she was writing a letter to the colonel of the *gend'armerie*, begging pardon for her conduct, and exculpating the guards as well as count Attems from any share in what she had done; and another to the count, explaining her reasons for not having imparted the secret to him.

We calculated that the guards would have discovered our escape by eight o'clock, the hour at which we had left Salò. We were anxious, of course, to reach Riva, and proceed thence instantly; as any delay would have been still very dangerous, considering (as we did) the wide-extended influence of the French. At length we arrived at the Tyrolese frontier, after a passage of eight hours. I ran to present my bill of health, which was signed without hesitation for Trent: but the boat that carried our chaise and horses had not yet come over; so we were obliged to wait at the only tavern there, which stood near the lake. I could not suppress my

imprecations at this delay, while every moment was so precious.

At five o'clock we perceived no less than *three boats* coming toward us. It was natural for us to suppose that the *gend'armes* were on board some of them in pursuit of us, and that the police might have discovered the road which we had taken; but where could we now hide ourselves, or whither direct our flight? At Riva there was neither carriage, horses, nor post; and we should have certainly been traced within an hour, for the inhabitants would have pointed out the way to our pursuers. I wished to conceal my suspicions from Mrs. Smith, yet I reflected that it was best to prepare her for the evils that might ensue. Her courage never forsook her a single instant: she proposed we should hide ourselves in the cavity of a mountain at hand, and continue our journey on foot; but the boat with our chaise and horses reached the shore some time before the others. Without losing a moment, we set off for Trent with all the

speed that spur and lash could produce; nor could we learn who were in the other boats: the people, however, who seemed to feel for our agitation, assured us that they did not come from Salò.

We could never have supposed that we should be obliged to fly, even from Trent by a necessity as urgent as the former. The post-master could not supply any stranger with horses without orders from the director of the police, whose signature was also to be put to the passport. My pass was for Trent only, so of course I had to request a fresh one for the continuance of my journey: the director however of the police not only refused to sign the pass made out at Brescia, but, on observing in it the last letter of the word *cameriere* (signifying a *footman*) substituted by an *a* (making a *chambermaid*), he remarked that suspicious people like me ought not to have the boldness to present themselves at his tribunal; and that instead of allowing me to proceed to Germany, he would direct me back to Italy, adding that

I must not stay in Trent. In vain did I insist on his giving reasons for such conduct: my endeavours were useless to persuade him that my character in no way was liable to blame for having a servant-woman instead of a man, and that such trifles could not deserve the notice of government: Every argument was ineffectual with this obdurate Bavarian; who immediately ordered that no horses should be given to me, except to go back to Italy.

In returning to the inn, the servant that accompanied me gave a strange character of this man, and promised to adopt any method which should suggest to elude his prohibition. I was far from trusting him, considering of what serious consequence deception would still be to us. To return to Italy, however, would have been to throw ourselves into the hands of the enemy. Some road must be devised by which we could travel in the Tyrol after quitting Trent, without the danger of being taken by the *gend'armes*, who probably were still in quest of us. For this pur-

pose no better way appeared to us than to leave the city at night, and take the secret road below the castle. Having resolved to follow this plan I went to the inn, where I found Mrs. Smith at table, taking some refreshment after her severe fatigues. Without speaking to her, I told the innkeeper to prepare some eggs and roast meat; and on her asking me for what purpose, I remarked that she as a servant had nothing to do with my orders. As soon as we were alone, I told her that there were no hopes of escaping but by walking through the defiles of the surrounding mountains; and though she was almost overcome by the agitation and fatigues of the preceding night, she did not hesitate a moment in embracing the proposal, and exposing herself to new hardships. Her bad health rendered such an undertaking almost impracticable,—but absolute necessity forced us to it.

As we were on the stairs in our way out, the innkeeper expressed a wish to be of service to us, whom he thought embar-

rassed, as we had to perform the journey on foot, as far at least as the first village, where we heard that horses might be easily found. He offered to sell us a countryman's small vehicle for one horse, for thirty-two *louis*, which he observed, after we had used it, we could sell at any village thereabout. Our joy was extreme on being thus relieved, and we paid the thirty-two *louis* without hesitation: we then hastened from that place, as well as from the evil destiny that still hovered round us. But how could we expect to escape the vigilance of the sentinels, or persons belonging to the police, at the gates, probably sent on purpose to arrest us. I reflected on this, and imagined that a guide would be useful in leading us the safest way out. The innkeeper accordingly sent a man with us at our desire, who preceded our steps for about a league, and thus eased us of much embarrassment.

At midnight we parted with our guide, and found ourselves alone in a path utterly

unknown to me. Mrs. Smith was seated in the chaise, exposed to all the rigour of the atmosphere; she was however drest in woollen clothes, and I sat before her, driving. Sleep, to which we had been entire strangers for two successive nights, weighed down our eyelids forcibly; but the sense of our extreme danger, which still continued, was superiour to our want of that refreshment.

We arrived at a village where, though it was still dark, we found a post-horse, and a young man for the purpose of driving us till day-break, and by this means I was enabled to avail myself of a few hours uneasy rest. I afterwards reassumed my office of postilion, directing our way toward Batzen with our usual speed. We suddenly heard the noise of a carriage advancing upon us. Our delay at Riva and Trent afforded sufficient time to the officers of government for overtaking us: at such a juncture no other supposition could find a place in our minds, and every thought anticipated our arrest by the *gen-*

*d'armes*, presuming that it was they who now drove so hard to come up with us. No refuge remained but to hide ourselves. On our left there ran a torrent, at the foot of the mountain, and on the right was a thick wood: through the thorny windings of this, and without the guidance of any track, I led the horse for some distance, and when surrounded by bushes and trees, we stopped till the carriage passed.

To return now to the road would have been imprudent; therefore after leading the horse with the greatest difficulty over the rugged heights, and arriving at the bottom of the mountain, we proposed resting ourselves here for a short time. We inquired of the people at a cottage, which was the way to pass the chain of mountains, and go to Styria, to which a woman, of whom Mrs. Smith begged a room to repose for a few hours, replied, that being then alone in the house, she could not dispose of the rooms without her husband's leave. Like a true woman, however, she was soon touched with com-

passion at our words and situation, and permitted us to take some sleep, which was become so urgent a want, that we confided ourselves to her without any suspicion of danger. Indeed who could have entertained an idea that people thus unexposed to any incitements toward crime, would have been capable of denouncing us, and displaying a satisfaction in procuring our arrest, in the very place granted to us as an asylum, merely because we had in some degree a strange appearance ? The husband, on coming home, and being informed by his wife that she had two strangers, soon came to the rooms in which we were, and disturbed us : he asked us how we could have thought of coming to such a remote place to which there was no path, and then told us to be gone immediately. While I was getting the horse ready, he locked up our few effects in a room, and hastened to the neighbouring village to accuse us. But we were not so unfortunate as to fall a sacrifice to this wretch's perfidy. The good woman, struck with horrour at such a violation of the sacred laws of hos-

pitality, ran after him, and entreated him to desist, adding, that these poor people had trusted themselves to her: her words soothed him, and he gave us back our clothes and trinkets; telling us however not to stay any longer. Thus we were obliged to set out for Batzen; but being apprehensive that the people in the carriage which had passed, might be waiting for us at that place, we wished to avoid entering the gates: therefore we drove by the suburbs as fast as the horse could gallop, on our way to Brixen.

Towards the evening we met a waggon, on which there were several French cuirassiers; but as they were ignorant of our case, they only laughed at our mean equipage. We crossed the Tyrolian mountains with our usual celerity, without stopping either night or day; nor did we allow ourselves that repose which our fatigue urgently called for. The scorching rays of the sun incommoded us by day; and after its setting, the keenness of the air: and we were obliged to pursue our way during

the night through the craggy valleys near the Brinner, Schoenberg, and Inspruck, though I was entirely unacquainted with the road. How often were we under the necessity of descending and leading the horse, to avoid the dangerous fragments of the mountains! The poor animal was very much exhausted, having travelled all day through the most fatiguing paths, but seemed sensible of his utility to us, and never once slackened his pace till he had carried us to a land of security.

The people of the Tyrol are of an uncouth and stubborn cast of mind: they possess so small a share of humanity or hospitality, that exclusive of our fears arising from a knowledge of their dependence on Bavaria, and their connections with the French, we were desirous of quitting their country, and not to expose ourselves long to their ill-treatment and extortion. As we approached the extremity of the Tyrol, we were accosted in a wood about noon by a man dressed in a soldier's uniform, who, drawing his sword,

desired us in a threatening tone to lend him some money. My situation was such, that I could not possibly perceive what went on, nor abandon the horse, but Mrs. Smith snatched the loaded pistols that we had with us, and answered his menace by presenting one of them at him. This made the fellow step back instantly, and renounce his plan of robbing; leaving us to proceed towards the Saltzburghese territory. We knew that on our entrance there we should be on neutral ground; but we apprehended that difficulties would arise at the barrier, on account of our passport. The only one which we could present, was that given to us by general Lauriston, empowering Mrs. Smith to travel wherever she pleased: our fears, however, happily subsided, when the proper officer signed this passport without hesitating an instant, or asking who I was (thinking me to be her servant). We rejoiced extremely at having so easily overcome such a prominent obstacle: but continued to hasten our steps, as we were afraid of being called back, to have the pass re-examined.

We judged it prudent to keep the circumstance of our flight a profound secret, as we could not flatter ourselves with the hope that the passport would ensure us a free passage through Saltzburgh, it having become utterly useless, for it was confirmed by no signature at any place in Italy or the Tyrol. Our intention was, to go to Gratz, where Mrs. Smith's children and sister (Mad. Strazzoldo) were, and the only way to be attempted was by the Saltzburghese hills, asking the road to Styria as we went. We determined at random on crossing the mountain of Bertoscad, though we knew nothing of the direction to be taken; but the country people pointed this out to us, and I managed the reins of our wearied animal accordingly.

The same day we arrived at Waispack, situated at the foot of this mountain, and containing a church and an inn. Ah! how can I ever lose the memory of this place, which offered us the first asylum after such tempestuous agitation, so many

cares, such trouble and fatigue! and where, secluded in a manner from the whole world, we were able to indulge ourselves in the hope of perfect security! This village, standing at a distance from the highway and from any city, is surrounded by hills, in which silence and solitude reign, interrupted only by the streams that rush down the sides of the mountain in their rugged channels. We were invited here, for the first time, to repose ourselves, free from our late cruel solicitude: we were no longer oppressed by a fear of treachery at the hands of those whom we met, or a dread of being arrested by whoever approached us. At Waispack we staid a whole day, and the next we intended to reach the summit of the mountain; but Mrs. Smith's strength was not equal to such a walk: the people however directed us another road, along the river, leading to Zell, whence we were to proceed to Styria, through a most delightful country.

No landscape better deserves to be de-

scribed in the liveliest colours of language, than the enchanting scenes which are so richly lavished by the hand of nature along the banks of the lake of Zell. Were I endowed with the transcendant genius of Horace or of Virgil, what a truly fascinating sketch would I not produce of a country less dreary than the mountains of Berne or Zurick, but replete with all that beautiful contrast, so peculiar to many of the most romantick parts of Switzerland! The eye is pleased with a multitude of cottages, the simple inhabitants of which are agreeably united, and pursue their agricultural labours. Further up among the hills, small houses are interspersed every where; and from time to time the welcome inn is found, which affords better fare than that of the large villages in the Tyrol.

These people have been attentive to the place of their religious exercise: the church is splendid, and well officiated; and for this purpose they deprive themselves of a certain superfluity of domestick

comforts. The inhabitants of the environs of this lake are robust, and well made; yet through the most of the Saltzburgese territory one is disagreeably struck with the sight of a race of beings who exhibit an extraordinary chain of the modifications of nature, almost from the monkey to the man. I looked with compassion at a number of deformed wretches, whose configuration was so little human, that every movement was accompanied by perpetual contortion. What objects of pity are those miserable creatures who, though members of society, hardly possess the faculty of vegetating, being actually deficient in animal organization. Even their expression is unconnected with articulate sounds, and they are unable either to answer or to comprehend whatever is said to them. Such are seen trailing themselves from place to place in the vicinity of Saltzburg.

Obliged as we were to advance through mountainous defiles, destitute of a path to follow, we found it necessary to walk

through many a wild passage; we often joined the country folks on their way homewards, as the day began to close, and I led by the bridle our horse with our battered vehicle. I now felt that our late vicissitudes realized the ideal adventures of romance:—shut out from the vortex of society, and buried in the solitude of such a country, after suffering from the intense heat of the sun, we rested ourselves, as evening approached, on the borders of some stream, or took shelter beneath the humble roof of a cottage: considering ourselves no longer bound to accelerate our steps, how often did we sit in the shade of some pine, listening to the nightingale's notes! Harassed no more by the dread of seizure, our minds rambled in an investigation of the works of nature.

But alas, of how short duration was this enchanting illusion! we were destined to the most barbarous retribution, for having thus indulged ourselves in a few days of peace and comfort. Though delivered from our enemies, capricious for-

tune determined on loading us with the chains of that very government under whose jurisdiction we had hastened to claim protection. We had to endure the sufferings of delinquents, and to inhabit the loathsome cell of a prison: it appeared that the hardships to which we had been subjected were not sufficient to expiate the audacity of our enterprise, and that on our heads was to fall the punishment which had been reserved for persons unknown to us.

A Tyrolese lady, on whom neither rank nor fortune could justify her passion, loved a youth of the condition of a merchant, and the obstacles to the accomplishment of her desires caused her to elope with him. His flight became a matter of publick concern; and all the guards at the confines, as well as the police, were cautioned for the detention of the parties. The vigilance intended for them soon fell upon us, and when we reached the frontiers, we were prevented from passing them, the people there supposing us to be the fugi-

tives in question. We discovered the motive of this impediment, and found that it would render our journey by the way of Carinthian Styria quite impracticable, as also by the other frontier.

This adventure seemed almost to have something theatrical in it, as in many dramatick plots similar incidents form the basis of intrigues and interesting scenes. We at first merely smiled at the curiosity of the people; but as we were obliged to return to places which we had already passed, we began to be seriously displeased. At every step fortune seemed to rejoice in oppressing us; my tranquillity fled before unhappy presentiments; and an idea of additional disasters obscured the brighter prospect which had begun to dawn. Nothing now appeared agreeable to our eyes; no object afforded us delight; and the same hills, rivers, and valleys, that before had enlivened our imagination, were become sources of melancholy, and even of disgust.

The affair of the fugitives made us apprehend that we should be arrested in any of the adjacent countries to which we might return. From the time of our quitting Radstadt we were unable to devise measures either decisive or accurate. We hoped to be able to ascend the steep mountain called the Tauro; and we set out for this purpose; but being obliged to traverse the precipices on foot, without being able to avoid the frontiers of Carinthian Styria (on the other side of the mountain), we judged it prudent to return to Radstadt, after having fatigued ourselves for several hours. We had now again to contrive the means of escaping even from a country which we could not call inimical; but it seemed as if captivity hovered round us wherever we went, danger faced us at every avenue, and liberty fled from us as we hastened to overtake it; we were doomed to struggle against our adverse fate, and elude the vigilant police of every country; not only constrained to avoid cities, but to fly from the confines of kingdoms.

How were we to pass that frontier where we had been mistaken for the fugitives of Saltzburg, without making ourselves known? We thought it expedient, in order to avoid betraying ourselves, to abandon our chaise, and put on the dress of peasants, in which disguise we could easily pass with the shepherds at sun-rise, as they led their flocks: this we conceived to be the surest way of averting danger.

As Vagrain, a small village four posts from Radstadt, had afforded us the most perfect repose the day before, we of course thought we might return to leave the horse and chaise at the inn there; with orders to send them by a man to Gratz; and also purchase the peasant's clothes, in which disguise we were to continue our journey that night. Could we have imagined that in this village we should find the hidden means of our misfortune? Could we have supposed that, after baffling the strict vigilance of the French government, and eluding the rigour of the Bavarian officer, we were to become the dupes of a traitor in an insignificant and peaceable place?

On our arrival at Vagrain the same day, we trusted the chaise and horse to the mistress of the inn, informing her that after a few days we should return to take them again: and every thing appearing secure, we afterwards bought the country-dresses openly. This became a subject of the publick curiosity; and we thought the people would have been pleased at seeing us lay aside our usual attire, and wear their's. We could not suppose that wearing the habit of simplicity was a fault; nor were we sensible that the continuance of our usual dress was a duty; least of all could we have suspected that this deserved to attract the rigour of government. But in these respects we found ourselves mistaken; our adoption of this dress was suspected to be a stratagem of deceit and perfidy. We had little imagined that this would excite malignity; yet a wretch was found whom it prompted to such a line of conduct. I now retrace in my mind his horrible looks, wherein enough was imprinted to cause every one to shun him,

and believe him dangerous: his forehead truly shewed itself the seat of duplicity; it could almost create in me a sentiment of revenge, though unaccustomed to harbour such inclination. I see him hastening to denounce to the police of San Giovanni, that two suspicious persons were endeavouring to escape in the disguise of country dresses: and himself almost by the hand conducted the soldiers, with the minister of the police, who appeared ignorant of their object: he entered our rooms, exulting in the accomplishment of his wanton malice, occasioned by no fault of ours: he pointed to the country-dresses which we wore, caused the bayonets to be directed to our persons, and looked around for further signs of suspicion and culpability; but none could be found in us, except that of not having presupposed the possibility of such a monster's existence. But I cannot, without horrour, continue to depict such a wretch as he appeared to me, though I was then ignorant that he was the cause of our arrest.

It was nine o'clock in the evening when, dressed in the country-habits, we were ready to depart, carrying on our shoulders a basket that contained our other clothes; but we were suddenly alarmed with the sound of arms, and strange voices. As these approached, a secret impulse prepared me against a surprise. I had hardly called the mistress of the inn, to enquire of her what this bustle meant, when I saw myself surrounded by soldiers and a commissary of the police; who, after taking me into custody, entered Mrs. Smith's room with violence, arrested her, and demanded her passport.

The measures thus taken against us by the police of San Giovanni, arose, from the circumstance of our being mistaken for the fugitive lady and young man. Mrs. Smith shewed the old passport given by general Lauriston, and signed at the barrier of the Saltzburg states; and as her name, together with that of her family, was perfectly well known in that part of Germany (her mother having been for

many years conspicuously engaged at the elector of Saltzburg's court), the commissary, on perusing this passport, looked with amazement at her, and asked whether she could possibly be Mrs. Smith. I now attentively viewed the soldiers, and the wretch who had been the cause of bringing them hither; but he stood apparently satisfied in having secured us. I wished to enquire for what reason we were treated thus: but the orders issued by the magistrate were, that we must be put into prison the same evening, unless we could shew passports that were sufficient to identify our name and character. The commissary however recollected having seen Mrs. Smith at the gay assemblies of Saltzburg, though she was now so coarsely dressed; and on that account he declined to adhere strictly to his instructions, but allowed her to remain in her room for that night.

I had already been announced as her valet, as she in some degree had reason for this, and I for adopting that character.

Being apprehensive of mischief, I had some days before torn the passport that had given suspicion to the director of the police at Trent, and thought it would be better to pass for her servant than by my real name; as in the latter character, and with a lady travelling through the Tyrolese defiles in a style so uncommon, our suspicious appearance would have been still greater.

This fiction however was now attended with very unpleasant circumstances to me, for I was confined all night in the room with the soldiers. I pretended to be asleep, but listened to the conversation between the commissary and the mistress of the inn. She gave him all the information she was able, from the time we had first come that way: and the man who had denounced us, examined the whole room to see that all was faithfully under the care of our guards, and that every paper found in our port-folios was seized, particularly our country-dresses, as they were to justify this proceeding. Day-light had hard-

ly appeared when we were obliged to quit the inn at Vagrain as prisoners, and surrounded by the soldiers; the wretch who had denounced us went on before.

We reached San Giovanni at ten o'clock the same morning. The director of the police of this village was an old man, so ignorant of every language excepting German, that all his endeavours to comprehend the Italian passport were ineffectual: he therefore requested the assistance of an officer of the infantry, whom he ordered to interrogate us. This *gallant* German used the most insolent expressions to Mrs. Smith; saying she was nothing more than a servant-maid who had the impertinence to adopt the name of Smith, and audacity to shew a passport in that name for the purpose of passing unmolested; but this fellow was strangely surprised when Mrs. Smith recalled to his mind the circumstances attending her residence at Inspruck (in consequence of his assertion that he had been acquainted with Mrs. Spencer Smith), and even the invitation

which he had received from her to an assembly held at her house there. He thus at last fully recognized her, but looked awkward enough after his improper conduct. However, he told the minister of the police that the passport was regular, and this was actually the lady mentioned therein; yet the police of San Giovanni had not the power either to decide on what appeared mysterious, or to grant us our liberty after this explanation. Such an *important* concern was necessarily to be transferred to the superiour judgment of the police direction of Saltzburg: for which purpose we were obliged to quit San Giovanni on our way to the former place, accompanied by an armed escort.

I must be permitted to describe my admiration on viewing the country about Saltzburg, though my feelings at the time were very little disposed for the reception of agreeable impressions; yet such were those proceeding from the alluring prospect, that I could hardly forbear from exclaiming: Nature here appears rich in

awful variety, precipices, streams, and trees, blending their colours with a tasteful distribution, which no art can imitate, no fiction equal. This enchanting scene continues for the extent of four posts and a half. It was then that I said: "Here indeed do I admire the majesty of Nature: never has she appeared hitherto before my eyes in such splendid attire." But these effusions ill became my station of valet; and Mrs. Smith, with a sign, explained her disapprobation of my nonconformity to the simplicity suiting the character which I now represented.

Every forest, every rising ground seemed to issue forth to view with a sort of pride that demanded the tribute of our praise. The surrounding objects; the fanciful form of the mountain; the graceful masses of the foilage; the hideous aspect of the caverns; the silence along the lofty pines; the lucid tears of the drooping willows; the majesty of the firs; and the fugitive horizon, purple-grey, at an immense distance; the prolifick field, as

if bashful to appear before these shaded vortexes; a wavering atmosphere; a melancholy sounding echo; the sight of scattered flocks; the reiterated murmurs of the waters; the contrast, in short, of the grand productions of nature, who without colours or canvas, steel or marble, creates and does not imitate—displays and does not illude—exhibits the most fascinating pictures yet does not paint; who offers the archetype to the research of truth; gives animation to her works and motion to her offspring:—all concurred in forcing from my lips the accents of my transport, the expansions of my enthusiasm; and the blessings arising from my joy and content in observing and admiring her.

What must have been the sufferings of a mind which had constantly been the asylum of truth, when called upon in such moments to suppress its emotions, and assume the mask of dissimulation! In secret, however, I indulged my feelings; and even was on the point of giving ut-

terance to the impression made on me by the magnificence of nature, when an imperious glance from Mrs. Smith checked my transport, and told me to be silent. I willingly affected to act the submissive part assigned me of valet to the unhappy victim; and braved every trial, every hardship, in order to alleviate her sufferings: for I determined to complete the friendly services which I had promised, and save her if possible. Indeed was not my patient forbearance fully evinced by the suppression of all resentment upon *this* occasion?

We entered Saltzburg at eleven o'clock at night, after being drenched by continual showers of rain during three or four hours: and were conducted to an inn; where a maid-servant, who had formerly attended Mrs. Smith, recollected her instantly, but appeared astonished at seeing her in company of the officers of justice. We were soon announced to the government; and shortly afterward a rigorous minister visited us, who desired to know our names.

I told him that mine was Raimondi, and I was valet to the lady; and Mrs. Smith told him her real name: but this did not appear satisfactory to him, and he demanded to know the reason of our disguise. A mere whim replied she: But a simple answer hardly ever suffices to convince those employed in the discovery of guilt; and in the present case it was ill adapted to appease a set of men, whose thirst after punishment is seldom assuaged unless actions present themselves under criminal appearances; unless thoughts are disclosed which may often be neither proper nor prudent, and unless they are furnished with a string of argument and matter on which they may exert their baleful sophistry. How does it happen that those to whom the judgment of human actions is referred, and upon whom depends the civil security of the subject, should harbour an anxious desire of finding men culpable, and of inflicting punishment, thus conducting themselves as a scourge towards society? They odiously seek, by every sort of casuistry and chicane, for

marks of crime; and interpret actions so subtilely as to make them come under the lash of the law with apparent propriety. Ought they not, on the contrary, with the gentle sentiments of humanity, to be awake to a sense of human frailty; and overlook, or even conceal many of the inferiour failings of man? But do I say *conceal them?* ah, no! such was not the design of the minister who came to investigate our adventure.

He took pleasure in misrepresenting our harmless conduct, and framing his report of it in terms of suspicion: he tried to confuse the words of Mrs. Smith and me, and insisted that he could perceive criminality; but we found ourselves out of the reach of similar accusations. Every method was used by him to draw from us the secret of our flight. He pretended to be Mrs. Smith's friend, and begged her to explain the motive that led her to wander in such places with an equipage so very inferiour: and next adopted threats; urging that the whole must be confessed to

him as minister, since her situation was truly suspicious. He alternately promised us our liberty and menaced that we should undergo the rigours of the law. But how could we hope for protection from men who, though unable to trace any crime in us, were capable of arresting and traducing us like delinquents before their tribunals? Had we not reason to fear, on the contrary, that if we had divulged our flight, we should have been subjected to measures the most severe; or even, perhaps, that they would have considered it a duty to make it known to the enemy? Mrs. Smith, who was always firm in her answers, told him that she disregarded his threats, since she knew herself exempt from any fault that could have offended the Austrian government; and in order to convince him that all his efforts were useless, she observed that she was not bound to disclose what could never concern any tribunal of Germany.

Our examiner, (whose name was Carnieri), offended by these answers, conceiv-

ed a sentiment of revenge; the usual resource of those who go beyond the extent of their power, for the purpose of persecuting innocence. Quite enraged on finding that all his arguments were unavailing, "Madam," said he, "this is the last time that I shall insist on being made acquainted with the secret that envelopes your conduct, which to me bears so very strange an appearance. A refusal may occasion very disagreeable consequences: for from this moment it is my duty to place guards over you; and to defer till to-morrow the examination of yourself, as well as that of your servant, who stands in a still more awkward situation." Carnieri then left us, and we remained under the custody of two soldiers, and an officer of justice during that night.

Count Bissingen was governour of the city of Saltzburg. With this man's family Mrs. Smith was intimately acquainted; having known him both at Vienna and at Venice during her residence there. She therefore expected to find him as attentive

as he had formerly been at Venice, when he offered her his good offices; but this *worthy* count now forgetting the assemblies, and dinners at which he had been accustomed to meet her for a whole year, said on receiving a note from Mrs. Smith, requesting the favour of an audience, that he had never been the friend of any such person, nor had any knowledge of her: he did not even answer her note; but granted full power to Carnieri, to act according to the law (that is, agreeable to his own will), thus acceding to the suspicions that were formed against her. It would be useless to comment on the sense of indignation which such a breach of friendship and humanity must inspire: but what could have induced this man to deny his former acquaintance with Mrs. Smith? Perhaps because her situation might stand in need of his assistance in demanding her liberty, in opposition to the malevolence of the director of the police! Could this have been the reason for his acting in such a manner—But let me drop so truly odious a subject.

Scarcely had the following day appeared, before Carnieri arrived, desirous to vent his rage upon me; he could not well upon my companion, she being in some degree known to him. When I awoke, I found myself surrounded by three police officers, who ordered me to follow them instantly. I wished to see Mrs. Smith, to concert with her the means of escaping again; but my attendants would not allow a word to be spoken, and seemed ready to inflict bodily punishment for even a gesture.

I was led like a culprit to the police, where Carnieri appeared. I was here questioned in all the formality of a legal trial. He asked me at what time I had commenced my journey. I answered the truth. He then inquired what countries I had travelled through. "Italy and the Tyrol," replied I. He desired to know why I appeared in disguise. I replied "to please my mistress." "From what motive" continued he, "does this woman (who calls herself Mrs. Smith) make use

of so wretched a vehicle, and avoid the high road, going by the untrodden paths of the mountains?" "As a servant," said I, "it does not become me to judge the conduct of my mistress; but I believe, in this instance, it arose from mere fancy." Here he stopped and in the mean time a clerk wrote down my deposition.

Forgetting that I acted the part of valet, I suffered some questions to escape me, relating to the population of Saltzburg, the internal traffick of its territory, and its military strength. This increased the director's suspicions, who already had sufficient doubts of my being a servant; and not thinking that I understood the German language, he said to the clerk: "This servant meddles in politicks." I pretended not to know what he said, and appeared attentive only to what was being written in my name. Two officers of the police were at this time sent to interrogate Mrs. Smith, for the purpose of gaining every information which might make us seem culpable. She was ignorant of my situa-

tion since I had last seen her ; but I was not so of her's ; knowing that she had been permitted to remain at the inn where I left her.

The director, satisfied with having afforded me the honour of his presence so long, said, on leaving me : " You must remain here for the present. I shall soon return ; and then your fate will be unfolded to you." I was instantly placed under the care of an inhuman old man, whose age seemed to have hardened him in the rigour of guarding prisons, and loading his fellow-creatures with chains. He led me to a room situated near the river Salsa, and there left me.

I waited impatiently till the hour of Carnieri's return ; and my imagination at intervals combined a train of doubts and ideas naturally arising from such a state of uncertainty, and particularly in awaiting the issue of an adventure likely to be terminated in secrecy and darkness. My apprehension that through the shameful pro-

ceedings of this man, we might ultimately be consigned over to the enemy, augmented my anxiety tenfold: however, when my reason allowed me to reflect on the principles of justice, I hoped that a neutral government would not act so cruelly; and thus at intervals, my state of suffering was alleviated. But it was not the dreary dungeon which confined me in its awful solitude, nor the keen effects of cold and hunger which occasioned my trouble: it was the ignorance of the measures adopted by this minister, concern with regard to the fate reserved for us, and doubt of not succeeding at last, after having effected my companion's escape so happily, that oppressed my spirits. Thus we are insensible to physical evils, when the mind is either deeply afflicted or agreeably excited.

I had passed the hours of the day in this tumult of reflections, and the evening approached to increase my sorrow; but the old man to whom I was confided, and to whom the sight of my distress was vis-

ibly pleasing, then introduced a youth, who spoke to me in Latin. Far from suspecting this to be a scheme for the purpose of discovering whether I was a servant or not, I was happy to find a person who could answer my questions. In a state of suspense, we readily make repeated inquiries respecting the cause of our distress, in the hope of finding relief. Anxious to obtain information of our fate, I thought that I might demand it of this man, whom I conjectured to be in some publick employment; but before I spoke upon this subject, he congratulated me on the enlargement of my mistress, which, he said, was to take place the next day, adding that my destiny could not be known so soon. I asked him to inform me of the reasons for protracting my imprisonment, as I was free from every mark of crime: but before our Latin dialogue could proceed any further, the jailer entered, and in the roughest manner obliged me to quit the place I was then in, leading me up to a dreary cell, high in the tower. "Here," said he, "is the place which you are to

inhabit, the other not being allotted to the guilty." This unexpected treatment quite overcame my feelings, and plunged me into the most tormenting affliction.

A mephitick air, unfit for respiration, oppressed my lungs; the cold of the deadly atmosphere that prevailed here, was extreme: and I was refused woolen coverings to protect me from it, and even food to support nature. I had scarcely entered, before my eyes were struck with the sight of a man, whose bushy hair and beard covered his face: he lay stretched upon a couple of boards. When I had come in, he was told that he must share his bed with me; and the jailer, after having thus acted his part, went away, leaving me in darkness, and the dismal company of this object. I refrained from speaking to interrupt his silence, which I supposed was agreeable to him, but I could not suppress the movements of my heart, and deny myself the resource of profound sighs. With a hoarse voice, perhaps imagining me as criminal as himself, and of course

that I ought to have appeared equally inaccessible to feeling or sentiment, he reproached my weakness as ridiculous, and even added that I ought to support my situation with gaiety. I was on the point of calling him an insensible miscreant, but I forgave these ideas in a man, who shortly afterwards told me he was a murderer: he said he thought the act of homicide becoming and laudable, when occasioned by an excess of rage. Indeed the atrocity of his mind must have rendered him incapable of commiseration; and his taunts being of no importance to me, I stood reflecting in silence on the critical situation to which I was brought.

I meditated the means of again rescuing by flight the lady, of whom I could learn nothing further, and myself. I was disposed to attempt any plan that might relieve her, regardless of my own personal danger, however imminent. An impulse of honour taught me to save her or perish: I glowed with the desire of realizing this, but my thoughts were embittered by the

impossibility of communicating with her. Ideas came rushing on so confusedly, that I was no longer able to reflect coolly : contradictory inferences drove me from the refuge of hope, and an accumulation of disaster seemed to thicken before me. While thus wavering in the illusory dreams of conjecture, I was startled by the voice of the jailer, who calling me by the name of Raimondi, told me that the minister was waiting for me on the bench. I thought it strange to be thus summoned, as it were, to be tried, and at a time when the night was far advanced ; but even this presented to my mind some gleam of hope.

I appeared before Carnieri with the respect suitable to the character of a servant. He had just returned from his examination of Mrs. Smith. The conduct of this man was truly remarkable : he had, without any proof of our culpability, treated us with the utmost severity, preventing the mediation of Mrs. Smith's friends, who had wished to assist her. His suspicions induced her to withhold a disclosure

of our flight, as it could have in no way facilitated our enlargement; nor was it at all necessary, considering that we had in no manner given offence to the Austrian government: a government which we had considered so shortly before, as the secure asylum of our persons, under whose influence we had panted to arrive for safety, and which we had expected to find a sure protection against the enemy; but we now found an iniquitous magistrate distorting it into oppression, and betraying (in a manner) the prince whom he was bound to serve. After endeavouring, by the most deceitful and insidious means to ensnare Mrs. Smith, he found himself completely unsuccessful. Her answers were consistent and positive; and her remarks tended to instruct him in not overstepping the duty of his office, as well as in limiting his interrogations to the immediate object in concern; and she reproached him for what he uttered expressive of his desire to prove us culpable. He confessed to her the embarrassment which he felt from her

answers, and said that he did know what to resolve upon.

He thought proper, however, to peruse every paper left at the police of San Giovanni, and which had been delivered to him sealed. Among these were several letters directed to me; among which were one from the Society of Letters and Science at Turin, with its address printed, a poem in rhyme, with my name to it, and two journals of my travels. All these increased his suspicions with regard to me, and in a written consultation by Doctor Allietti (a Venetian physician), which Mrs. Smith had with her, he read that she was doomed to a French prison. These documents highly excited his anger, on his reflecting that her conduct would have left him destitute of all information. He came to re-examine me, shewing marks of displeasure, and asked me again who I was? I answered Francis Raimondi, a servant. He next enquired what wages I received; on which I told him five Venetian livres a day. He de-

sired to know how long I had had the honour of being with the lady; I fixed the time at two months. On this he paused, smiled ironically, and then said he should think himself fortunate in being served by such a valet; and I replied, that it would also gratify me extremely to have a master like him. All my answers were in unison with the sly tone and gravity of his questions. Suddenly, however, he altered his countenance, and affecting compassion for me, said: I never knew a woman more unfeeling than your mistress. She knows how much you suffer, but does not care for it. She cannot be ignorant how precarious your situation is, yet she makes no inquiry about you. She must know that you are without the means of procuring yourself nourishment, or of returning to Italy, and still she does not relieve you. I asked her whether she wished to wait till a decision took place concerning you, but she said she only wanted her own liberty, as her servant did not occupy her thoughts. In short, she will go away to-morrow, without having once ask-

ed about you? Is this a consequence of your misconduct, or of her insensibility? Neither, said I, it is only your mistake; but supposing all this to be the case, I shall never accuse her of selfishness, if she should obtain her release from you. I could not help giving way to this freedom of speech, though it might betray me.

One question only remained to be asked, and that was, whether I knew the *Marquis de Salvo?* This quite astonished me, as I was unable to conceive by what means he had discovered my name; however, I was more resolute in answering than he was in interrogating me, and accordingly said, that gentleman was Mrs. Smith's friend, and had travelled in her company a part of the journey in Italy, but that on his departure for Milan, he had left some of his effects with her till he should overtake her at Vienna. These answers, continued he, lead me to suspect that you are the Marquis's servant, and the woman herself the maid-servant of Mrs. Smith; and that having stolen the jewels and other

articles belonging to your master and mistress, you are trying to escape. I was inflamed at hearing such an accusation, and the violence of my emotions could no longer be repressed. I indignantly replied, " Such charges wound the feelings of every man, however mean his condition may be. You arrogate a style which no other man would have the audacity to assume, while the imputations against us remain unproved, at a time also when you have thought it proper to load me with sufferings from your own wanton caprice ; but though you have it in your power to deprive me of my liberty, I defy you to injure my character. Remember that in all stations men ought to know and adhere to their duty."

When I had thus expressed my emotions, this perfidious man, in a passion, ordered me back to the cell, where I passed the night in the greatest anxiety, devising the means of effecting my escape. For almost two days I had hardly touched any food ; and about the middle of the

following day, unable to resist the call of nature any longer, I called to the jailer to bring me some nourishment. On this a commissary hastily came up, and threatened me with the severest chastisement, by order of the director, if I should again raise my voice; adding at the same time, that M. Carnieri was to come to speak with me that evening, about two hours after sun-set.

Mrs. Smith had already departed, but I was not informed of that circumstance till the director came to examine me, which he did at the appointed hour, and then said: "Your mistress is released, and gone from Saltzburg; you may follow her, if you will first candidly declare who you really are. The opinion occasioned by your conduct obliges me to defer any favourable decision respecting you." I answesed, "If such opinion has not prevented the enlargement of the lady, I must return to my prison; but I leave in your hands the fate reserved for me." His vanity was hurt at seeing me superiour to all

his duplicity. "Such obstinacy in concealing your name," continued he, "is useless. Consider me no longer as the *director of the police* interrogating *Raimondi the servant*, but look on me as *Carnieri* conversing with the *Marquis de Salvo*, and desirous of his confidence: and that, stripped of all publick authority, I come to question you as a friend, informed of your character not only by the papers testifying your name, but also by the assertion of Mrs. Smith herself, who, previous to her departure, ceased to make any further mystery concerning either you or her journey." I was now uncertain whether I should believe him or not, and demanded in confirmation his word of honour. He therefore, accustomed to the violation of this sacred pledge, asserted that such was the truth upon his honour; on which I satisfied him of whatever related to my name, but carefully avoided speaking of Mrs. Smith's detention or escape. His former injustice was now changed into the most flattering marks of favour, and assurances of the sincerest re-

gret for the steps which he had taken in consequence of this accident; but he used every argument to justify these, obliging me to blame only myself. "The suspicions," said he "respecting your persons, have occasioned a juridical report to be sent to those who are to decide upon your destiny; in the mean time, you may, in the company of a commissary, continue your journey to Lintz, where, with Mrs. Smith, you are to wait for further orders."

I set out the same evening for Lintz, where I arrived the following night; and though, as still being the servant of Mrs. Smith, a room had been intended for me in the prison there, the police director, when informed of the sudden change of my character, agreed instantly to afford me all the favour that could be granted to a young traveller who was under the vigilance of the government. During the first days I was not allowed to visit Mrs. Smith, whom I thought informed of all that had happened: on the third day, however, I had the honour of seeing her: she

expressed her amazement at my disclosure of my name; and when she had heard that I had been led to it by what had fallen from her own lips, she shuddered with horrour at so base a falsehood, as well as at hearing from me the sufferings to which I had been subjected since I left her. She had been unable to procure any certain information relating to me, but the people at Saltzburg had told her that I was to go to Italy.

Lintz, situated on the banks of the Danube, appears toward the river in one of the most fanciful and pretty aspects that can be found any where. Almost every morning before the sun rose, I walked along the borders of the river, breathing the air of liberty, but still uncertain how long I was to remain free. With what real satisfaction did my mind look back on the dangers which I had escaped, and the fears I had endured, yet my uncertainty respecting events that might still render all my hopes illusory, damped my spirits. How pleasant it was to me to sit

in the shadow of the rock, and hear only the sound of the gliding waters, while the serene and placid atmosphere was all in silence. Many a time did I wish for the permission to live there forever in freedom; but while I was thus engaged, our fate was ordained.

On the fifth day after my arrival at Lintz, I had heard at Mrs. Smith's house that our release was fully granted, on condition of our departing under fictitious names, from the states of a power whose neutrality precluded our further stay.

# SECOND PART.

I OUGHT perhaps to commence this epoch of my vicissitudes in the language of tranquillity. It seemed that our evil star had set at last, and that we should experience no more such days as those which had obliged us to wander in the trackless mazes of the mountains, far from human intercourse, while our sole resource was the tacit expansion of our heavy hearts. A road was opened to us by the government. Our liberty had been at first purchased with fear and hardship; and afterward by retreating from places replete with danger, and where, though our escape might have been admired, it could not have been protected. It had appeared as if our deliverance from captivity demanded so many cares, that all others were precluded, and the ultimate fulfilment of our desires was impeded. It was to see her mother, to embrace her sister, and re-

cover her darling children, that my companion went through Germany by these provinces; but the road ordered to be taken by the cautious government rendered these designs abortive. The attainment of her desires being thus denied, she travelled without pleasure; she complained of the immense distance from one place to another, and found fault with the divisions of territory. By the aid of her imagination, she drew into one point those objects of her affection, representing them at some of the places which she was to pass; but this illusion vanished upon her receiving orders two days afterwards to repair to Prague in Bohemia, whence she was to take the road to Saxony or Russia.

She had wished for nothing more than her liberty; yet now it was not sufficient to make her happy. She had trembled for her personal security; but even after obtaining this, she was still uneasy and discontented. How difficult it is to secure for a single instant that complete felicity to which every human action tends.

When free from all physical ills, from terrour and fatigue, the mind and the passions militate against those comforts which ought to result. Who would not have supposed Mrs. Smith happy at such a time, when every difficulty had been so fortunately surmounted? But her children were far from her, nor did she know where to find them, whether at her sister's or mother's, or in the hands of the enemy. Could she possibly abandon Germany without getting intelligence regarding them, and without taking them with her to England, if possible, where she was anxious to arrive to join her husband?

But it was not the children alone that she abandoned, in quitting the continent, for perhaps they were already on their way to London, with their preceptor. On leaving Styria, she would have been deprived of the happiness of embracing her sister, of giving her a detail of her vicissitudes, and of consoling her with regard to the apprehensions of her safety. Both Mrs. Smith's mother and sister were igno-

rant of her escape, and having learned that she had been made a prisoner, must have still supposed her in the custody of the French.

These considerations greatly diminished the pleasure of emancipation. Real joy cannot be concealed; neither prudence nor dissimulation can prevent it from appearing manifest to the nice observer; but a contrast of sensations naturally occasions a depression of spirits. This was the state of Mrs. Smith's mind when she conversed with me in the house of the director of the police of Lintz. She observed that the duty imposed by the government embittered that felicity which she would have experienced, if she had been permitted to seek her children, and to deposit in the breast of her dear Clementina (her sister) the tale of her adventures, and perhaps succeed in persuading her to come to England, in order to alleviate the hardships of the journey. Thus another favourable occasion of enterprise offered itself to me, and if a sense of my duty had

stimulated me to the attempt of effecting her release, the same principle was now sufficient to induce me again to use my endeavours in whatever could tend to her happiness. I did not then imagine that I was forbidden to stay any length of time in the imperial dominions: I therefore told her that I was ready to undertake any journey through Germany for the purpose of recovering her children, and that I would conduct them from Gratz, where I supposed they were, to Prague; she accepted my offer with joy, and this was all I wished.

The worthy director of the police represented to me the impediments likely to occur in the journey, and the danger incident to my situation; but of what weight could such considerations be, when the forlorn mother stood trembling for the safety of her children! My imagination figured the lovely boys running to my arms to ask me tidings of their mamma, whom they had left surrounded with French guards, and I anticipated the rapture of

the countess on my announcing the escape of her sister. No; it was impossible that I could have resigned such an enterprise, worthy at once of the man of feeling and the disinterested friend.

From Lintz to Gratz there is no direct road, except across the enormous mountains. Though I had visited Germany the year before, the nature of this part of it was totally unknown to me: it is extremely uneven, and the paths along the valleys being made only for the use of the country people, are often dangerous and steep. No other road however was I permitted to take than this; in which there was no post established, and of course I could never expect to find either a chaise or horses, so that I had no resource but the faithful animal that had indefatigably performed our escape through the Tyrol and Saltzburg. Without further delay I confidently promised Mrs. Smith to overtake her at Prague in the space of ten days, together with her two boys, and left Lintz towards evening, in the original vehicle drawn by the

old horse, an equipage truly grotesque, being the same that we had purchased of the innkeeper at Trent.

The environs of Lintz, on each side the rivers Vein and Ems, appeared luxuriant and rich; and it was pleasing to observe the women retiring at that hour from the town to their villages, carrying the articles which they had been purchasing. In their company I travelled till night came on, when I found myself alone in a forest of oak trees, at no great distance from the river, the course of which regulated the steps of the horse. I arrived soon after midnight at a village called Stayer, and after giving the horse a few hours rest, I continued my way as the day approached, without knowing the proper road to be taken.

The aspect of the country throughout Styria is rugged and coarse, exhibiting a profusion of awful prospects. By means of steep mountains the eye is prevented from enjoying a spacious horizon, and all

the level space which is visible, consists only of a road winding along the bottom of tremendous masses, where nature, a mighty hermit, sits formidably at top in savage and wild appearance. The traveller, surrounded by a numerous heap of rude precipices, either grows weary and dull at such monotony, or is absorbed in the gloom of misanthropy, which in that silence assails the mind congenially. Yet let not the eye that gazes on these regions cease to admire the happy compensations granted by nature for the deficiency of blooming fields ; the solitary valley, shaded by the richest vegetation, receives its moisture from a multitude of streams ; woods adorn the variegated sides of the mountain ; and the pines rooted aloft, close these picturesque scenes, with their tops frequently immersed in the clouds. The most beautiful flowers too are profusely interspersed with the abundant pasture.

I compared the population, productions, and comforts of this romantick country with those which I had observed to exist

in a soil extensively level. In the former, the villages were more frequent than in the other, cattle also were more numerous on the rising grounds of Styria, than in the plains of Austria or Bohemia; the labourers were less wretched, industry was better conducted, their manners were simpler, and their minds more sincere.

In this stupendous labyrinth I travelled a whole day, beholding with silent astonishment the stern and gigantick exhibitions of nature. I could descry no egress, except my narrow path, edged on one side by a furious torrent that ran beneath those precipices whose tops seemed to defy the storm, and which, hanging over my head, threatened in every direction my almost affrighted imagination with impending ruin. In this seat of terrour I indulged in the melancholy which reigns there eternally. No sound reached me but that of the rushing streams; my eyes were fixed in amazement at the tremendous fragments of fallen rocks, while others appeared aloft on the verge of dislocation;

the horizon was closed from my sight all around, and the vapour in such a depth made even respiration disagreeable. Towards eight o'clock in the evening I stopped at the foot of a mountain, a portion of which formed the roof of a cottage; and in this solitary place I passed the night. The scene before me was truly majestick: the primitive age of sublime poetry came to my mind, and its fabulous conceptions appeared to have received their origin from similar prospects; and as darkness approached, my thoughts wandered to the remotest times of antiquity. But sleep at last enveloped my senses.

The next day I continued my journey; but from time to time stopped to see the cascades which, being formed by the thaws of the snow, fell from the precipices. The numerous flocks of sheep afforded a proof of the comfortable state of the peasants; which was confirmed on being told that each of them, however poor, was possessed of two cows, and a field of grass. In general they are the cultivators of their

own lands, and woodmen of their own share of the forest. The people in other villages thereabout subsist entirely by making charcoal. In passing Retfling, I perceived the huts almost subterranean, as the people are all manufacturers of charcoal, and that occupation necessarily rendering them as black as negroes, they appeared like an African colony come to settle in Styria. I considered the active traffick of these provinces as humiliating to my own country, for there were roads across the mountains, from the top of which I beheld the carts descend, containing their produce.

On my arrival at Leoben, I entered that place again with pleasure, though I had taken my leave of it the year before, in the intention of not returning so soon. I drew near to Gratz; and was anxious to arrive to see the Countess, and to know the fate of the dear children. At length this city appeared, nor could I help being agitated in more respects than one. I feared that I should have to encounter the

obstacles of the police in the execution of my designs; but I passed the gates without interruption, after shewing my passport, and giving to the officer the name of the inn that I was going to. I enquired immediately for the countess Strazzoldo's house, which I soon found out; but I was doubtful whether I ought to announce myself, thinking that she might be in company. Without saying any thing therefore to her man, further than asking where she was, I entered her room, and found her sitting alone. I told her my name; but is it possible for me to find language sufficient to express her immediate astonishment, emotions, and transport! On seeing me, she recalled to mind her sister; she thought of the prison where she still supposed her confined, of her possible escape, of her misfortunes, perhaps of her death! She doubted, she wished, and asked, all at once. A thousand words were ready, and a thousand questions in the same instant: impelled by her emotion, she sprung from her occupations, and ran about almost out of breath, through the violence

of her agitation; she raised her hands, and every motion was eloquent in expressing her desires, while her lips faultered. I found myself seized by the enchanting sympathy of real feeling; the attraction burst upon me with irresistable force, and rendered our affections mutual. She confusedly asked me: "My sister—where is she?" but before I could answer, the voice of Elmaurer and the cries of little Sidney and Edward drew my attention. I flew to meet them, I embraced them; and saw the lovely infants happy. I told them that their mamma had escaped, and that they would shortly see her. It was then indeed that I experienced the pleasure of having been instrumental to their escape, and to that of their mother; of having averted the horrours incident to their captivity, and of having probably saved their lives: my imagination glowed in triumph, and my satisfaction was complete.

In the mean time the countess, impatient to hear her sisters's adventures, pressed me to take a seat with the preceptor

and children. Though I had hardly recovered from my agitation, I began the narrative from the day when we left Venice; they listened with the most eager attention to every syllable that I pronounced, to every incident, however trifling, that I described. I detailed the difficulties attending the preparations for escaping, the subsequent dangers of the enterprise, the hostile force, the deluded *gend'armes*, the averted obstacles; our fears, the treachery used against us, the fatigue, the anxiety, the solitude, the nights without repose, the steep and bad roads; then our firmness in suffering, our resources, the instability of our freedom, the detention at the confines, the mistake of the fugitive lady and young man, the seizure at the tavern in Vagrain, the prisons, the injustice, the conduct of the director; and lastly the discovery of the truth, and protection afforded by the laws to our journey:—all seemed to amaze my hearers, who till that time had only listened to similar descriptions as the inventions of romance or fabulous poetry. Their curi-

osity now gave way to astonishment, and their bosoms no longer heaved through fear: the tears of agitation on my arrival were followed by those of joy; and their happiness was extreme at finding that we had overcome so many obstacles.

I had hardly finished, when I informed the Countess of the object for which I had come to Gratz; adding, how pleased her sister would be, if the Countess were to accompany her to England, as nothing else was requisite to complete her felicity: that I hoped her husband would have no objection to this, more especially as Mrs. Smith's recent detention had arisen from her attempt to come to Gratz for the purpose of embracing her sister.

Count Strazzoldo came in as I was talking to his wife; and he had the goodness to agree to her request, and permit her to join her sister. I was overjoyed to find my journey succeed so well in all its objects; after finding Mrs. Smith's children in perfect health, to have persuaded her

sister to come with me. Every thing thus seemed to promise the most happy result, and I flattered myself with being the spectator of a most interesting scene; for I resolved to present the children and the Countess myself to Mrs. Smith at Prague. In the mean time it was necessary to hasten our departure, as further delay might be attended with inconvenience, particularly as I had promised to reach Prague within ten days: I hoped that the police at Gratz might not have received instructions respecting the order given me not only to quit the imperial dominions (and avoiding the road by Vienna), but also not to travel in the company of persons belonging to Mrs. Smith; and I therefore went to demand my own passport (which on my arrival had been consigned to the officer, and by him left at the passport office), and another for the children; but it happened that the police had been informed of the measures to be adopted with regard to me; and instead of giving me the passports which I had demanded, they ordered the preceptor of the children to depart with

them immediately, without the company of any other person whatever; and I was afterward told to pursue my journey incognito, in obedience to the will of the government, with a strict injunction to conceal my name till I should reach the Russian frontier, or be otherwise out of Germany. This obliged the Countess to travel alone. Indeed, for my part, I could not have offered her a place in my chaise, and besides, the rigour of the government was a sufficient impediment; yet notwithstanding, as she wished also to go incognito to meet her sister, she resolved to partake of my vehicle as far as Prague. The children departed during the night; and we followed them the day after.

To proceed to England, I required a passport from the Neapolitan minister at Vienna; besides which, I wished to write to my family, nor did I know of any other medium than his. I also thought myself bound to communicate Mrs. Smith's escape to him, and that I had effected it. It was necessary for the Countess to procure

a passport for the same journey, from the minister for foreign affairs at Vienna; and therefore we decided on going to Bohemia by the way of that city.

Being unwilling to announce myself at the gates of Vienna, in conformity with the advice given to me, the Countess and I took care to penetrate by night like the people of the vicinity, avoiding by that means the necessity of shewing our passports; by which conduct I wished to prove my obedience and respect for the sovereign who protected us. We entered Vienna about two in the morning; but were obliged to wait in the streets till daylight, as the doors of every house, as well as those of the inns, were kept shut during certain hours of the night.

I went the same day to the house of the commendator Ruffo, minister plenipotentiary of the king of the Two Sicilies to the court of Vienna, in order to acquaint him with our flight. This enlightened and accomplished gentleman, after listening to

the narrative of all our vicissitudes, manifested his satisfaction at what I had performed; and with the sincerest marks of esteem, promised me that he would communicate the same both to the court of Naples and to my family. He advised me at the same time to depart from Vienna as soon as possible; but I was obliged to remain for the whole of the following day, as I had several affairs to arrange.

The British minister at Vienna had granted a passport to Mrs. Smith's children the day before our arrival. I wished to see again those places, and those friends, that I had been familiar with during my former stay in that metropolis for the space of four months; and as was natural, this desire increased in proportion to the opposition which the orders of government occasioned. Towards evening, however, I went to the *Prater*, and its appearance recalled to my mind the spectacle which it usually affords in fine weather, when people of all ranks are assembled there to enjoy the delightful shades of the forest.

The natural grandeur of the trees is not at all effaced by the vast numbers of coffee-houses, eating-houses, orchestras, games, and amusements of every sort, that are in perpetual exhibition to a merry people; there are other places of resort for the hypochondriack and melancholy, far from the multitude. I recollected the immense consumption I had witnessed there of beer and meat, which the inhabitants take at all hours; as well as the other resources of this beautiful spot, for it is here that a stranger may very soon discover the character and manners of the people of Vienna.

On returning from the *Prater* I went to other places where it was not likely that I should be known, and next day before our departure, I visited the mausoleum of the arch-duchess Christina, by Canova. It is like all that sculptor's works, in imitation of the best relicks of Greece and Rome, and might undoubtedly bear a comparison with them, if this great artist were to produce each year fewer statues,

or to shew more attention to unity of character and form. All that is wanting in the productions of this sublime master is, the *poco di piu*, or hair's-breadth more or less, a requisite peculiarly essential to the higher class of sculpture.

In the evening the Countess and I left Vienna, on the way to Prague. I had to travel in a country to which I was a stranger, having never been beyond Vienna on that side ; but as I was obliged to hasten my journey, I was prevented from making those observations on Moravia and Bohemia which I wished, previous to my arrival at Prague. The lands in general appeared fertile, and the country throughout extremely uneven. In every village and town, images of saints and the Virgin ornamented the squares or publick places, and the people of Germany appeared to me so very superstitious, that I imagined they would fight better for the conquest of Jerusalem than for the protection of their country. The women in those provinces were employed in the fields more than the

men, the exertions of the latter seldom extending beyond horse-driving, or wielding the musket.

Bohemia seemed richer than any other part of the Emperour's dominions; but the character of its inhabitants is rough and uncivil. Their language, a corrupted Illirick, prevents the passenger from gaining information, and besides this, their extreme avarice renders them unsocial. I was struck with the difference of temper between the youth at the age of twelve or fourteen years, and that of the man of twenty-four: the first were lively and quick, but the other looked stupid, lazy, and as if the faculties of the mind sunk under the increasing vigour of the body. This I attributed in some degree to the great consumption of spiritous liquors and animal food, which at that age prevails in Bohemia. I have seen some of the people eat abundantly five times in a day. The Bohemians are brave and loyal subjects, qualities particularly commendable in the inhabitants of the frontiers of any state.

In three days we reached Prague and as I had the direction for finding the house which Mrs. Smith was to inhabit, I hastened towards it, but after having made every enquiry, I was unable to discover that she had yet arrived. I was likewise at a loss with regard to the children and the tutor, and went in search of them to the police office. They had come two days before us, and the director of the police had informed Elmaurer, that Mrs. Smith had not appeared. This delay began to excite my suspicion regarding her freedom: however, the next day we received intelligence that she had arrived in the forenoon; but that being obliged to observe the character of *incognito*, she was not allowed to see any person before night. This meeting was truly interesting—the transports of joy on every side, when the children and the Countess flew to Mrs. Smith's arms, formed a most affecting scene. The children, on going up stairs, cried out to their mamma: their voices reached her; she sprung toward them, and caught them in her embrace, covering

their lovely faces with her tears and kisses, the tender effusions of her maternal love! They returned her caresses with charming simplicity, exclaiming "We are free." The Countess, unable to utter a syllable, embraced her sister. Every mark of affection and delight was reciprocally bestowed, and the blessings of felicity seemed at length to have reached us. We were each anxious to relate our adventures (as is naturally the case when friends meet); but such was the pleasure at seeing one another, that every thing else was neglected at the time, the idea of the freedom that had united the children, mother, and sister, occupying the mind alone. Nothing further seemed requisite to render them happy; impending evils no longer obstructed the effusions of joy; but the cautious government could not allow the mother and children to remain united before their arrival at the confines of Russian Poland. I was ordered to depart with the boys for Cracovia, and the Countess was permitted to remain with her sister.

I was then obliged to adopt again a name and character, that did not belong to me, agreeably to the passport given me by the police of Prague, which described me as Signior Vitelli, a banker from Triest, a father of a family. Thus from a footman, an unknown fugitive, and a suspected prisoner, I was metamorphosed into a wealthy traveller; as generous as could be expected in a banker; as profound in commerce as a native of Trieste might be supposed; sufficiently inquisitive and learned for a calculator of profit and loss; and strictly observant of the laws, like most of those engaged in trade. This change, however, induced me to part with the horse and chaise, notwithstanding my unwillingness, from reflecting that I should most likely never again see this poor animal that had saved us by indefatigably making his way through passes which perhaps no other of his kind had ever dared to attempt; and had defied the steepest roads of the mountain, and measured the most extensive plains with a vigorous pace. On him our best hopes had been placed, at

the time perhaps of our greatest danger during our flight. I then experienced that grateful sentiment which men often owe to the inferiour animals: the idea, however, that he would not again have to perform such long jaunts, and undergo so much painful fatigue; nor very probably have to feel the stripes of the lash, (which by the bye had been rather severely inflicted by me, from the exigencies of our affairs, since his first entering our service); these considerations reconciled me in some degree, and I wished him an easy and long life.

The next day, accompanied by the children, I left Prague, but with regret, as I was unable to observe sufficiently the curiosities of this capital of Bohemia, the delightful and noble position of which deserves the attention of every stranger; nor was it in my power to make any enquiry respecting the erudition of the people, who seemed more perspicacious and industrious than those of any of the other countries of Germany I had passed through.

A proof of this was afforded by the high price of every article of necessity, and particularly of luxury; not, however, arising from scarcity, but from the flourishing state of internal commerce and the vast consumption. The resources of Bohemia proceed more from manufactures than from a prolifick soil; nor could I discover in the people a propensity for agriculture, as they were generally engaged in the works of art.

The memory of that great monarch Joseph II. is highly venerated throughout the country; he having granted to such of the inhabitants as were engaged in the cultivation of the earth, a participation of the common rights of humanity, of which they had been long deprived, by the most cruel personal servitude.

The route from Prague to Olmutz is perhaps the worst in the space between Bohemia and Moravia; wretched inns, bad and steep roads, and lands barren through neglect, render the journey wearisome.

Before I arrived in Gallicia I passed through Silesia. I mention this merely because it was then only that I perceived for the first time that I had gone from one country to another without being sensible of the transition; for throughout Germany, the coins, customs, dialects, and other peculiarities, are extremely various, and strike the traveller as he enters every province.

On coming to Cracow, its appearance sufficiently proved it to have been formerly the seat of commotion and civil war; its poverty and inactive state were evident, and seemed as if none of its inhabitants considered it their home. In fact the nobles had all emigrated to the neighbouring countries, particularly Vienna; those occupied in the government were Germans, the artificers either Italians or Bohemians; and the rest of its population were mostly Jews, who have no country of their own, nor ever partake in the publick concerns of any people among whom they reside. Yet they carry on exclusively all the trade

and support in a manner the political existence of this city, being at once the merchants, manufacturers, and agriculturists. The departure of the nobles and rich proprietors from Cracow, has left the Jews, by the means of their money, masters of a wretched people.

Soon after my arrival, the director of the police came to acquaint me that I must be cautious in not allowing my real name to be discovered, or that of the children; and besides, that on Mrs. Smith's coming, neither we nor any other persons could receive information of that circumstance till just before her departure for Russian Poland; but that in order that she might see her children, he would direct me to a wood at some distance from the city, where I was to wait with them in a remote part for Mrs. Smith, who should come there privately with her sister a few hours before her quitting Cracow. This induced me to suspect that there were French spies in this city, and that the government had some cause for such precaution; I consequently

endeavoured to keep the children as much concealed as possible. Two days only had elapsed when the director informed me of the spot to which I was to conduct them for the intended meeting. Towards evening I accordingly led them on till I found we were among the oaks, in the solitary place appointed. In vain did the infants search for their mother; their loud and repeated cries of "*Mamma*" were of no avail; for no step was to be heard, nor a signal of any kind perceived. She stood waiting for us however in company with the Countess Strazzoldo and the preceptor of the children, on a hill close at hand, and near the ruins of an ancient castle, once the seat of the Piasti family; but when the voice of her darling Sidney reached her, she also raised her's; and joyful sounds of tenderness quickly re-echoed through the gloom of the forest. During this interview the hours passed rapidly; but the intense darkness of the night made us reflect that it was time to separate, with the promise however, that they were to meet the children again in Bresk.

The next day, before I left Cracow I wished to see the famous salt-mines of Wilitzen. Tied to a rope, I descended into a deep chasm formed in the earth, accompanied by a man with torches, who was to guide me through its dreary horrours.

> Sola sub nocte per umbram ;
> Perque domos Ditis vacuas, et inania regna.

From time to time I stopped to behold the confused and tottering masses around me, while this terrifick abyss was seen vaulted above in hideous contexture, which seemed to threaten with destruction the eye that dared to gaze upon it. I continued to descend till I reached the bottom ; where, by means of our lights, I perceived a body of water, on which floated a small ill-constructed boat, destined to convey whoever wished to penetrate still farther into the dark recesses. Having finally, by narrow passages, arrived at the bottom of these immense excavations, the man that accompanied me gave orders to others who had come with us, to detach a

mass of salt from the rocks, that I might see the process and expedition of their operations. A thundering crash attended the shock, and resounded awfully throughout the hollow expanse; my senses were forcibly struck at the bellowing noise. I passed three hours in examining these places, which my fancy depicted as the seat of Chaos; not considering them as the result of men's thirst after gain, by which Nature herself seemed violated and disfigured, and her very bowels torn open. My conductor, being now obliged to return, asked whether I was afraid to climb up a rock there by means of pieces of wood for the purpose of arriving the sooner at the spot where I was again to be bound to the rope by which I had first descended. Though much fatigued, I willingly undertook this new road. On reaching the top of the cliff (which was no very agreeable task), and casting my eyes on the space beneath, I was astonished at the awful prospect, where a gaping abyss of the blackest darkness seemed ready to snatch me into eternal oblivion. I hasten-

ed from the dreadful aperture, pursuing my ascent with all the expedition of some unfortunate being who flies from a dungeon into which tyranny had plunged him. I thought I heard a human voice behind me, and that I perceived the shade of some departed soul; but these illusions occasioned by the dismal objects that surrounded me, were dissipated when, by the assistance of the rope, I was again hoisted to the light of day.

Cracow owes the principal source of its trafick to these mines. Above a thousand persons are employed in working them, and the produce is estimated at about two millions of florins annually. On returning to the city, I was obliged to depart immediately with Mrs. Smith's children for Bresk, a place situated on the frontier of Polish Russia.

The contrast between the fertile quality of the soil, and its barrenness, arising from a want of cultivation, was a melancholy proof of the wretchedness of those

countries. It was a distressing sight to perceive immense tracts of the finest land quite deserted; countries capable of becoming agreeable to the traveller, rendered insupportable to him and painful, by being destitute of even the necessaries of life. Often was I obliged to entreat the avaricious and ragged Jew for a night's repose in a miserable hovel, and pay for it at an exorbitant rate. I was as frequently under the necessity of waiting for post-horses in the open country, which seldom arrived till I had more than once repeated my solicitations to the people, who spoke a sort of Illirick dialect, mixed with a few words of Latin.

We continued the whole day to hasten across those extensive and dreary plains, seldom finding any mark of population. The distant village is composed of small wooden huts, inhabited by the sordid Israelites exclusively; who, notwithstanding the inviting surface of the soil round them, are never engaged in agricultural pursuits. How then is it that the eman-

cipation conferred by the magnanimous Joseph II. should not have contributed to the prosperity of the country, and the increase of its population? Is it credible that the emperour has found it expedient to establish a line of troops along the frontier for the purpose of retaining in their own country the Poles, who, tired of freedom, emigrated in quest of a master to buy them? Do these habits of slavery become agreeable to mankind?

I was approaching the frontiers of Polish Russia in the agreeable expectation that at last I should once more be able to appear unrestrained and free in every place, avow my name, and travel conveniently wherever I chose.

Mrs. Smith, since her departure from Lintz, had assumed the name and character of Mrs. Teresa Miller, wife of a Russian colonel; under which description she easily entered Bresk, the first place in Russian Poland. I arrived two days after her, under the character of Vitelli, a

merchant of Trieste; but as my passport had not been confirmed by the Russian minister at Vienna, I was arrested at the bridge forming the barrier, and obliged to return to Terespol; the last village in Polish Germany, and a very short distance from Bresk. A Jewish family there favoured me and the children with an asylum in their stable, whence I sent Mrs. Smith information of our accident, as I was quite at a loss how to act.

An extraordinary occurrence was destined to finish this mode of travelling under feigned names, and close the scene of our flight. Prince Wolkonsky was commander of the troops at Bresk and its environs. This amiable gentleman had resided a long time at Constantinople, where he had been particularly intimate with baron Herbert, Mrs. Smith's father; and knew that lady, as well as the rest of her family.

On the arrival of the supposed Mrs. *Miller* at Bresk, the prince was informed

of it; but as there was no colonel of that name in the Russian service, he immediately suspected her; and let her know that he wished to be informed who she really was, and the place of her husband's residence, since he was ignorant of there being any such officer. Mrs. Smith, though still averse to reveal her name, from the repeated experience of unfortunate events, sent Elmaurer to the prince, with directions to communicate the truth if he should think it necessary. The prince, after a very few words, obliged him to declare the whole; but the pleasure of Elmaurer was extreme, on perceiving that when he mentioned the name of Herbert, the prince hastened to visit Mrs. Smith, and receive from herself an account of her adventures. He was amazed on hearing that Mrs. Smith whom he had left at Constantinople, was now a fugitive from Italy and Germany, and had come to the frontiers of Russia for security. This prince, after listening with astonishment to the narrative of her enterprise and hardships, expressed

his desire of being useful to her, in consideration of his friendship for her family.

He very liberally gave orders that I should be permitted to enter Bresk, and the following day I had the satisfaction of being introduced to him. It was not in his power however to permit any of us to depart, till our Russian passports should arrive from Grodno; which rendered a stay of several days necessary.

This place made me imagine myself in an ancient city of the land of Israel. Three thousand Jews composed almost its whole population, and a few Russians administer justice, and occupy the civil employments. Whoever knows the character of the Jews, will easily conceive what monopoly prevails in this unhappy country, where the law is wholly under pecuniary influence, where power is purchased, and the magistrates and keepers of the customs follow no other rule in granting or denying whatever is required of them, than a consideration of the presents made to them. The

Jews, however, are necessary to the support of the country, considering its actual state; and one day when the governour informed me that their banishment was in contemplation, I asked who then were to be the inhabitants of that part of Poland, the labourers, the manufacturers, the tradesmen, and in short, who were to compose the people? adding, that without the introduction of new inhabitants, the whole country would become a complete desert. He agreed that trade and society itself, arose here from the Jews exclusively.

These people, solely occupied in the means of obtaining money, will never attempt any thing of importance in favour of those whose thirst for conquest might lead them to undertake the revolution of Poland, and whose reliance might be placed on the Jews. Timid and base from their condition and habits, they will never either take up arms against any government, or oppose its measures. In Bresk I fancied the houses alone had endured

the effects of levelling democracy ; for they were all constructed of wood and exactly similar, particularly in elevation, nor did I perceive that the dwellings of the rich were more splendid than those of the poor. The nobility, and the marshal (the ancient title of the chief nobleman in every city of Poland) of the place, lived in the adjacent country.

Prince Wolkonsky sent about to inform the principal people near Bresk of our arrival, for the purpose of procuring us the pleasure of their company. With what politeness and attention were we treated by the Polish gentry, from the instant they heard of our being there : they wished us to enjoy that hospitality of which our situation had so long deprived us in every other place, and as they understood that this was the first city where we had found ourselves in safety, they resolved to show us how well they knew how to receive the fugitive, and make us forget our recent troubles.

The Countess Megeasca* was the first to afford us the pleasures of society by inviting us to pass several hours of the day at her country-house, situated in the middle of a thick forest. Our conversation had hitherto been confined to dialogues with supercilious police-agents, rough soldiers, and tippling postilions.

I perceived that the house of the Countess abounded with all the comforts requisite for the enjoyment of life, and that the land round it was fertile and well cultivated; a hundred servants swelled her establishment, as is the case with most of the ancient families of Poland. I found an old French abbé (a necessary appendage to every large family there), a secretary fit for all occupations, the speaker (who is the reporter of the news), and a young man who seemed to be a husband-elect. Next were the daughters, who of course could sing, and consequently speak Italian: the Countess who was to pronounce on

* This name is written in the Italian manner, as I am unacquainted with Polish orthography.

politicks, and the superannuated Count, naturally subject to continued attacks of illness. There were besides the sprightly young lady overflowing with repartee, and the restless lordlings *du bel air*.

The history of Poland was almost constantly the theme of conversation in this company; and the degrees of civilization of the Russians who governed the country, seemed to form the utmost extent of their erudition; but when the prince Wolkonsky honoured the assembly with his presence, as he was a Russian general, these topicks were dropped, and musick alone engaged their whole attention.

They vied with each other in their politeness toward us. The juvenile nobility treated us with a grand ball, and appeared amply satisfied when we expressed our sentiments of gratitude for so much kindness: they all addressed us very politely though we were strangers, which is seldom the case in a *certain capital*, where it is considered almost a crime to be a stran-

ger, and where a ticket of invitation is requisite before such a one is admitted to visit any person, a way somewhat similar to that used in visiting objects of curiosity.

I contracted an acquaintance with Marshal K——, one of the most ancient nobles of the place. He resided in the country at a short distance, and spent many hours of the day in a delightful garden, where I perceived verses of Segur cut in the bark of several trees, and other sentences of his servant; who, the marshal told me, was his rival in political reasoning, and in opinions on war and peace, or on the strength or decline of nations: "This servant," said he "was the first who predicted all the dreadful consequences of Bonaparte's elevation to power, and I think him one of the first politicians in Poland."

This gentleman had been an impetuous orator in the diet, and one of the most strenuous supporters of the rights of the nobility; as such, after the subversion of

the constitution under which he had lived, no further consolation remained to him than that of contemplating the vicissitudes, and listening to the news of other nations. He introduced me to a friend of his, with whom he had once formed the project of putting into practice all the principles of Rousseau's social contract. I took the liberty of remarking, that they would have acted better by increasing the stability of the throne, and fixing an hereditary monarchy, thus putting an end to all the party-dissention which distracts Poland, and leaves it a prey to other nations. Woful experience had fully convinced him of the truth of this, and he seemed of opinion that the monarchy should not be elective, and that the nobles, instead of being so much concerned in establishing their own power, ought to contribute to that of the sovereign by an adequate military force. This the nature of the soil would greatly facilitate, particularly in point of cavalry, for the plains are very extensive. In short, he thought that they should have constituted in Poland a firm, instead of a

fluctuating and revolutionary system; they would then have prevented the aggrandisement of Prussia, and perhaps repelled the measures adopted by the other two powers who availed themselves of the vices inherent to the Polish constitution.

The position of Poland, no doubt, rendered its defence and preservation extremely difficult, surrounded as it is by the most powerful nations of Europe; but this inconvenience might probably have been averted, were the monarch to take that lively interest in the safety of his kingdom, which the former state of things in a measure precluded; or were the people, by enjoying the privileges of freedom, stimulated to the defence of their homes and property.

The marshal observed, "Poland has been offered to sale by every one." I replied, "of course it belonged to nobody." "Corruption and venality," said he, "pervade each class, nor have the nobles blushed to subsist on the donations of Catharine

and Joseph II." "Thus the nobility," continued I, possess more power than the monarch." The marshal appeared to me perfectly recovered from his thoughtless propensity toward the rights of the diet, and told me that he had determined on living retired in the cultivation only of philosophy, a science often entered upon too late, and frequently even then merely to counterpoise the irksome recollection of past errours.

Eight days elapsed without the passports from Grodno appearing, but we could not leave Bresk without them. I endeavoured in the mean time to gain information relative to the opinion of the few native inhabitants who were not Jews.*

* The Jews have no fixed political opinion; nor from their condition can they be expected to take any interest in the fate of governments, destitute as they are of country or home. To every nation that tolerates them they are equally indifferent. No people have retained their primitive character in greater purity. The French and Italian Jew resembles those of Germany and Poland, and the Asiatick is similar to the African Jew. In whatever clime,

I was unable to discover any national character. Two classes only were to be found; one of the nobles extremely rich, the other of wretched slaves. The latter are so little susceptible of patriotick sentiments, that they are even ignorant of what the word *government* means; to obey the commands of their superiours, is all they aim at. Among the nobles, one seemed partial to Austria, another to Prussia, and a third to Russia; but hardly any to France. The Count Mageasca said, in the senatorial emphasis of an ancient Roman, "Of the Poles, the name only survives, we are no longer a nation." I answered, "You were in a state of perpetual discord, which is not the case now that you belong to a government." It was not possible however to persuade either him or any other Pole that such was the truth, while the prince Wolkonsky governed and other Russian generals commanded them.

under all circumstances, they never relax in their pursuit of gain: they are not only of an undiminishing avidity, but (what is more remarkable) bear still every where those same Hebraick features which we perceive in the monuments of antiquity.

In society, the Polish ladies and the men also pointed at the uncouth behaviour of the Russians, and complained of being under the yoke of such a rude and uncivilized people. The condition however of the nobles is generally respected by the emperour, and the language, as well as the national prejudices seemed to resemble those of the Russians.

It was at Bresk in general Dimidoff's house, that I first heard the chorus of Russian soldiers. I listened with amazement to this perfect union of harmony, which might very justly have been taken for the production of consummate skill in musick. It consisted of a continuation of melodious passages, in a sort of inverse modulation of the different voices; the dissonances by which they apparently commenced, were resolved by the profoundest art. I thought I might compare it to the melody of ancient Greece, mentioned by Anacharsis and Polixenes; and I was convinced, that were the climate of both

equally mild, the Russians would eclipse the Italians in musick.

The Poles have also a taste for singing, which is generally of the sentimental kind. Their *canzones* always express the sorrows of unhappy lovers; thus differing from those of the Germans, who prefer the martial notes of a soldier, or the ungrateful shrieks of a fiend; or the Italians, who choose warbling heroes and gods; and of the French, who admire the plaintive song of innocence, or the obstreperous bawlings of low life. Pastorals please the Russians.

Education is in general highly refined in Poland, nor is the cordial reception offered to the stranger, one of the least convincing proofs of the truth of this assertion.

After a stay of seventeen days at Bresk we departed; and it was then that the children for the first time were permitted to travel with their mother, a satisfaction

which they continued to enjoy till we reached London. I was obliged to perform the same journey, finding myself deprived of any place of security, except England or Russia. As my intention was to go to Sicily, no way was open to me but the Baltick and the ocean. I was far from my relatives, nor was it in my power to inform them of my situation; but though I left them, was it not for the purpose of liberating an unhappy captive and two infants from unmerited imprisonment? Italy and Germany were shut against me, as I had reason to apprehend the most serious punishment if I were to return to either. My fate, however, far from seeming cruel, coincided perfectly with my inclination. Nor did necessity ever appear so congenial to me as on this occasion.

Being compelled to travel through countries entirely new to me, I observed attentively the manners and customs of the Poles, who at present have almost lost their ancient habits, as their national splen-

dour is decayed, and their country subjugated by the neighbouring powers. One of these is advancing fast to civilization, and seems emulous to deserve the rank of a polished nation. To obtain this end, its people imitate the manners of the French, and resort to theatres where French pieces are acted; the Italian manners and musick are likewise followed; and the maritime skill and method of carrying on trade of the English are cultivated: yet the national character still remains.

As I have observed, I was under the necessity of coming to England, a pleasing duty to me, as it fulfilled those wishes which I had always entertained, of visiting a powerful and victorious country, and beholding the prodigious effects of commercial industry, by which the productions of a hundred climates are interchanged, and rendered familiar to all its inhabitants.

In this hope I left Bresk, on my way through the rest of Poland to Petersburgh,

whence I intended to embark for London. My desire to gain all the information possible, led me to make the strictest inquiries; but, unluckily, the whole country that I traversed offered no more than a continued scene of misery. For whole days did I pursue my way without seeing any human being, though the soil was rich in pasture and trees. No mark of industry or cultivation could I perceive; and at the wretched and distant villages, almost every house appeared to be deserted. From time to time however, the lofty mansions towered to the sight from within the spacious and delightful forest: there the Polish nobles reside, to whom belong the dreary and wide-extended plains which I had passed the whole day in crossing. A rich Jew, in the spring, engages for the year, an immense tract of land, for the sole purpose of feeding cattle, and providing hay; and expects from it no other benefits than these, there being no hands to be found for cultivating the ground. The lower class, who are slaves, are obliged to serve their master, unless they are

rich enough to purchase their emancipation for a few months or years. It is needless to observe, that while things continue in this state, the country must ever remain destitute of population. Nature herself shrinks at such a dreadful anti-social system. Can men, thus oppressed, look forward to their offspring without feeling the pangs of remorse? and must they not rather curse the connubial bond that gives existence to beings doomed to chains and poverty? Accordingly, what in fact is the population covering an extent of 13,400 square miles? Hardly seven millions of souls, of which three millions are Jews.

The soil of the parts of Poland which I saw, appeared equal in quality to that of the richest countries in Europe. Its neglected state, no doubt, arises from the serious wars in which the powers it belongs to are so deeply engaged, being thus prevented, of course, from directing their attention to the amelioration of a country, of all the north of Europe the most susceptible of cultivation.

However disagreeable the sight of so many sordid Jews was to me in Poland, I could have wished to meet them every where. Without these fallen Israelites, the stranger in Lithuania would find it impossible to travel or even exist; it seemed as if the government itself, the lands, productions, houses, all, in short, were in their possession: without recurring to them, neither food nor horses are to be found. There is no fixed price for the horses, this depends on the will of the Jew; if the traveller thinks it exorbitant, or threatens to enforce justice, the Jew smiles with contempt.

After a journey of several days, I arrived at Wilna; where, on making inquiry for the ladies and children, I was told that Mrs. Smith laboured under a severe illness which threatened her life. Terrour and fatigue, in addition to her former impaired state of health, had reduced this lady to the verge of dissolution. Almost every hope was lost; the children were kept from her; and her sister, in the deepest

affliction, was unable to assist or even to look on her: She who had escaped from the grasp of bondage, lay supine at the mercy of all powerful Providence, and was unable any further to resist the laws of nature.

They sent in quest of Doctor Frank, but this celebrated physician had gone to Petersburgh: Mrs. Smith was therefore confided to the care of Dr. Lobenweil. This learned professor of the university of Wilna, in the course of a few days, succeeded in relieving her from the immediate danger of death; and through his unremitting attention and skill, in about a month she was restored to a tolerable condition.

As the month of August was expiring and any further delay might render the passage of the Baltick difficult, I determined on accompanying the ladies to Riga, there to embark for England, and gave up the idea of visiting St. Petersburgh.

Most of the gentry of Wilna being then in the country, and the university vacant, I was unable to obtain much information relating to the manners of this capital of Lithuania. From the discourse in the few circles there, however, I could find that both the people and nobles were satisfied with the Russian government; which has respected, not only the dignity and rights of the Polish nobility, but also the national customs; and has endeavoured besides to encourage agriculture and render the condition of the lower class less insupportable. But abuse and fraud still continue, and are perhaps even greater than ever: the ancient government of Poland was certainly by no means calculated to extirpate these evils.

I perceived too that what I heard in these respects was true. This city was governed by Russian generals, who were highly esteemed: the nobles considered themselves fortunate in being allowed to retain their privileges; and the people, who were more active than those in any

other part of Poland, cherished the prospect which would enable them to purchase their liberty for a few years. Though this administration can conduce but little to relieve Poland from the pressure of a rigid feudality it no doubt reconciles the Poles to their recent master.

Of all Poland, the Prussian part is the most dissatisfied with its fate, notwithstanding the attention of the king to ameliorating the condition of his new subjects. He has established useful institutions, and abolished many abuses; but the Poles wish for their ancient privileges, and utterly detest these innovations.

The nobles are incensed against the king of Prussia for laying pecuniary impositions upon them, and the clergy consider him as a heretick. Hence it is not surprising that we find many of the Poles acting in favour of his enemy. The Prussian monarch required the exertion of all his wisdom to suppress the turbulent spirit of this people, even though he had tri-

ed to render their condition more easy. I do not think that the Lithuanians and Gallicians will ever be seen seconding the ambitious views of France, or favouring by secret schemes the conquest of their countries. As the affluence of the nobles depends upon the preservation of the feudal system, it is impossible that they should ever consent to be governed by the laws of Bonaparte, which subvert every antiquated institution of the kind. The Polish gentry will of course oppose the French violently.*

I could not help inquiring after the husbands of some of the ladies at Wilna; and was answered, that they generally

* The French might have spared themselves the trouble of honouring the Jews with their sanhedrim of Paris: Circumcision itself would not induce them to perform any thing important in favour of France. The Jews, as I have already observed, are selfish and timid, and incapable of acting vigorously on any occasion. Have they been ever known, in the wars of Poland, or in those of the rest of Europe, to have taken any side with energy or courage?

lived at their estates, or in other cities. It was natural to infer, that the sole object of matrimony was merely that of preserving the inheritance in the family. When once the heir is born, the husband and wife live separate; and to render this perfectly unobjectionable, the lady is allowed the exclusive enjoyment of all her property. This convention is so strictly adhered to, that at the house of a Countess, where I had frequently dined, the husband, on coming occasionally, actually paid for his board and lodging there.

After leaving Wilna, the country bears a very different aspect. Corn and other productions in great abundance, afforded me the most agreeable prospect as I hastened along. An active trade appeared to be carried on throughout these parts, and as the land seemed less fertile, the villages were more numerous and well peopled. Most of the inhabitants convey the produce of their labour to the ports of Memel, Koningsberg, Riga, &c. and for

that purpose the rivers are seen covered with boats.

Having arrived in Courland, and when about a post distant from Mittau, I was obliged to wait two days in a wretched hut, as it was impossible to obtain horses; thus I found both men and beasts were equally scarce. To a Sicilian, like me, quite new to perceive the corn still green toward the end of August; this was the case in that part of Courland, so the harvest could not be got in before the autumn was very far advanced. I stopped only a day at Mittau; and the following evening entered Riga, with Mrs. Smith and the Countess Strazzoldo. No sight could be more interesting to me who had beheld nothing for four months but steep mountains, woods, and lonesome plains, than that of an immense river covered with hundreds of vessels and boats, where the people were observed busily employed in shipping or unloading every sort of merchandise, the cries of the active sailors heard as they unfurled their sails for de-

parture, and ships seen entering with their national colours flying. This was a most edifying scene, after having witnessed the distressed condition of the lower orders of the Poles throughout the interiour. At Riga all was in motion, the inhabitants of every climate lived here united, interchanging their several commodities, and the stimulus of riches seemed, through the medium of commerce, to give extraordinary animation to each individual. I had been for some time a stranger to such sensations as those which were impressed by the activity of this extensive city.

We immediately exerted ourselves to procure a passage for England; but, as usual, we were doomed to meet with obstacles even in this respect, and were under the necessity of protracting our stay no less than seventeen days, as there was no vessel bound for England.

Through all Poland, and especially at Wilna, the people complained bitterly of the excessive duties on all foreign goods,

particularly English. I was told that these frequently amount to half of the prime cost; and the injustice of the custom-house directors was related in the most virulent terms. I heard of an accusation made against a man of probity who had attempted to suppress these measures so subversive of prosperity and industry, and that every effort of the emperour to counteract such evils had proved unavailing. I observed, in answer, that every disorder has its attendant symptoms, and that to extirpate all abuses, nothing could be more effectual than entire freedom. These complaints however were never made at Riga, though the duties on every article are enormous there also: for the riches produced by its extensive trade with every northern country, render them less burdensome, so that among forty thousand inhabitants, no mark of poverty is to be seen.*

* A proof of this is particularly remarkable in England; where the treasures that flow from trade enable the people to support burdens which would overwhelm any other country in misery. For on

At Riga (as is the case in every city inhabited by merchants and bankers), political news is speedily and faithfully received. On the first report of the preparations for hostility between France and Prussia, a rich English merchant gave a splendid entertainment. The history of our escape was already known to many, and such of the gentry as had returned from their country-seats, very kindly afforded us repeated proofs of their hospitable attention; besides the nobles, the secondary class were extremely polite.

The Livonians do not like to be mistaken for Russians, notwithstanding their attachment to the government. They preserve the chronological list of their progressive advancement in civilization, which is anteriour by far to that of the Russians; and consequently expect a certain degree of deference on account of their antiquity.

what further object can the English be taxed, unless they are to pay for the faculty of respiration? Yet there is no other country in so flourishing a condition, or still possessed of such immense riches.

We at length embarked about the beginning of September, and in twelve days arrived at Copenhagen, whence, after a short stay, we continued our passage to England, and on the 26th day of the same month, I for the first time beheld the happy shores of that powerful and wealthy island.

FINIS.

H 61- 79 4

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

JAN 79
N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA 46962

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 020 666 789 8